YOUR GUIDE TO THE COLLEGE FOOTBALL BOWL SEASON 13

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Weekend

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OVER AND OUT

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STUPID THIEVES

'Plate #ZH7395 Is Hot, Bro!'

Police in Madison, Wis., say two men stole DVDs and computer games from a Target store Tuesday and discussed their plans to fence the goods while driving away. Neither realized that one of them had accidentally pocket-dialed 911. A dispatcher listened in as they discussed what they'd stolen and where they'd sell it. Police say they even described their vehicle. (AP)

CHRISTMASSY

Donner and Blitzen Make a Break for It Again

Two reindeer hit the ground running near Houston after part of a trailer hauling them popped open and the animals jumped out. Police received several phone calls Wednesday about the runaway reindeer, which are part of a petting zoo. The owner managed to catch and reload the creatures. The reindeer weren't hurt. (AP)

WILDLIFE

It Was the Only House in the Neighborhood Getting FiOS

A cable TV repairman got quite a surprise when he walked into the basement of a Hopatcong, N.J., home. There was a 500-pound bear sound asleep on the floor. The bear had been spotted wandering in the neighborhood in Hopatcong earlier Wednesday. It's not clear how it got into the home. The bear was shot with a tranquilizer dart and will be relocated. No person or animal was injured. (AP)

The Big Picture

TORSTEN BLACKWOOD/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

MADE YOU LOOK! WISH YOU DIDN'T? Senior invertebrate keeper Evan Armstrong shows off various species of stick insects (plasmids) to celebrate the opening of the Bugs Garden habitat at Wild Life Sydney on Thursday in Sydney. (GETTY)

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Nation

Congress Nears Spending Deal

Payroll tax cut likely to stay amid efforts to avoid shutdown

Washington

The endgame at hand, Democratic and Republican congressional leaders expressed optimism Thursday at prospects for swift compromise to extend Social Security tax cuts, keep long-term jobless benefits flowing and avoid a partial government shutdown at midnight Friday.

A third year-end bill, setting new rules for the handling of terror suspects in U.S. custody, was cleared for final passage.

"Right now, Congress needs to make sure that 160 million working Americans don't see their taxes go up on Jan. 1," President Obama said, referring to the tax cut extension due to expire at the end of the year, which is at the core of the jobs program he outlined three months ago.

House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio agreed. "We can extend payroll tax relief for American workers, help create new jobs and keep the government running. And, frankly, we can do it in a bipartisan way," he said.

SUSAN WALSH/AP

House Speaker John Boehner backs extending a payroll tax cut set to expire Jan. 1.

The previous day's partisan jabs in the Capitol all but vanished. Republicans agreed to consider changes to a $1 trillion spending bill compromise that they and at least one Democrat said had been wrapped up days ago. The White House said it wanted adjustments.

Democrats abandoned their demand for a surtax on million-dollar incomes that they wanted, removing a provision that Republicans opposed.

"We hope that we can come up with something that would get us out of here at a reasonable time in the next few days," said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada.

Boehner left open the possibility of a compromise on another key sticking point, a House-passed provision that all but requires construction of a proposed oil pipeline from Canada to Texas.

In addition to extending and expanding the payroll tax cut, Obama also wants to leave in place a system that provides aid for up to 99 weeks for the long-term unemployed. The House-passed measure reduces the total by 20 weeks, a step that the administration says would cut off 3.3 million individuals and that Democrats are hoping to soften, if not reverse.

ALAN FRAM AND DAVID ESPO (AP)

Meanwhile ...

Congress cleared a $662 billion defense bill and will send the measure to President Obama for his signature. The Senate voted, 86-13, on Thursday for the bill, which would authorize money for military personnel; weapons systems; the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq; and national security programs in the Energy Department. The House had voted, 283-136, for the measure Wednesday. The legislation is $27 billion less than Obama wanted for the Pentagon and other accounts. (AP)

In Brief

PHOENIX

Feds Detail Civil Rights Offenses by Ariz. Sheriff

The federal government issued a scathing report Thursday outlining how Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio's office has committed a range of civil rights violations against Latinos, including a pattern of racial profiling and discrimination, and carrying out immigration patrols based on racially charged complaints. (AP)

DANNEMORA, N.Y.

4th Man Claims Abuse By Ex-Syracuse Coach

A 56-year-old New York prison inmate said Thursday that former Syracuse University assistant basketball coach Bernie Fine began molesting him more than 40 years ago. Fine was fired Nov. 27 after a 36-year career at Syracuse after three men said he molested them when they were boys. Fine has denied wrongdoing and has not been charged. (AP)

MADISON, WIS.

Group: Gov. Recall Effort Nears Critical Threshold

Organizers of an effort to kick Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker out of office said Thursday that they have nearly enough signatures to force a recall election. The group, which faces a Jan. 17 deadline to submit the 540,208 required signatures, said it has 507,533 signatures. (AP)

366K **The number of applications** for unemployment benefits that were filed last week, the lowest number since the near-collapse of the financial system in 2008 and the brutal recession that followed. The bright news on the job market could be an indication that the economy is finally picking up. (AP)

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Nation

Medal of Honor Account Disputed

Report casts doubt on Marine's actions during Afghan fight

Washington

President Obama is standing by his award of the Medal of Honor to a Marine in the Afghan War, despite a published report charging exaggerations and untruths in the official account of his bravery.

Obama presented the award to Marine Sgt. Dakota Meyer on Sept. 15, calling him the "best of a generation" that joined the military after 9/11. He described the day in 2009 when Meyer braved enemy fire in eastern Afghanistan to save U.S. and Afghan comrades.

But McClatchy Newspapers said its review of documents turned up numerous assertions that are "untrue, unsubstantiated or exaggerated."

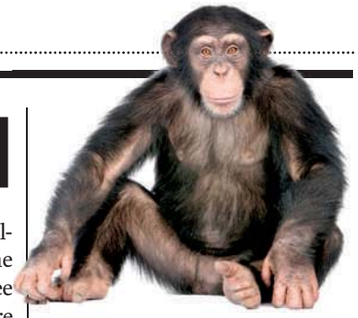
McClatchy's report, along with a story quoting other U.S. troops present that night, said Meyer likely acted heroically enough to deserve the honor, even if the available evidence did not match the narrative Obama had cited. Three other U.S. service members were involved in the same rescue and none has been awarded the military's top honor.

White House press secretary Jay Carney said the award was based on sworn testimony, and Obama "remains very proud" of Meyer.

The Marine Corps also stood by its account, which it said was based on interviews with Meyer and other witnesses; radio logs; and investigation by the Army and Marine Corps. (AP/THE WASHINGTON POST)

Hailed as a Hero

Marine Sgt. Dakota Meyer received the Medal of Honor, the military's highest award, on Sept. 15 for actions taken on a harrowing night in Afghanistan. Meyer reportedly risked his life to save 13 U.S. service members, leaving his vehicle to rescue 24 Afghans, leading a final push to retrieve the bodies of four dead Americans and killing eight Taliban fighters during an intense fight on Sept. 8, 2009. (TWP)

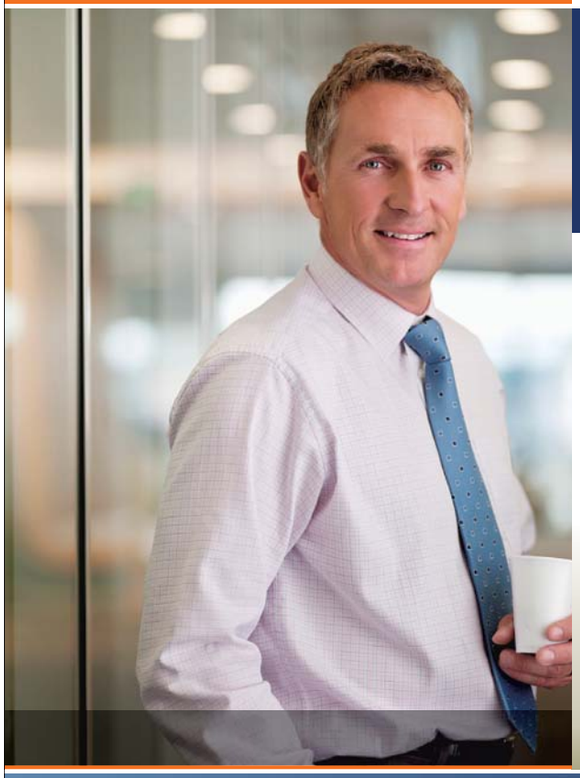


SCIENCE

Less Monkeying Around

The U.S. government will accept strict new limits on using chimpanzees in medical research, after a prestigious scientific group said that experiments with humans' closest relative should be a last resort. The National Institutes of Health agreed Thursday that science has advanced enough that chimps seldom would be needed to help develop new medicines. (AP)

UVa Online



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World

In Brief

MILAN, ITALY

Court: Lack of Evidence Led to Knox's Release

Knox

The Italian appeals court that overturned Amanda Knox's murder conviction in the slaying of her British roommate gave the reasons for its ruling on Thursday: the evidence that had been used by a lower court against the American and Raffaele Sollecito, her Italian boyfriend, just didn't hold up. (AP)

SANGRAMPUR, INDIA

Tainted Liquor Kills 143

Bootleg liquor containing toxic methanol killed 143 people and sickened dozens more who drank the brew in eastern India, officials said Thursday. Police arrested 10 suspected bootleggers. Thousands of relatives, many wailing in grief, gathered outside a hospital. (AP)

PARIS

Ex-President Chirac Gets 2 Years for Corruption

A French court on Thursday gave ex-president Jacques Chirac a two-year suspended prison sentence for embezzling public funds to finance his conservative party. Chirac, 79, is the first former French head of state to face prosecution since the World War II era. (AP)

Hearsay

"There is no external savior for a country that doesn't want to save itself."

—**MARIO DRAGHI,** EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK PRESIDENT, ON THURSDAY, DISCUSSING SOLUTIONS TO EUROPE'S ONGOING DEBT CRISIS.

JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

One of the last units of American troops to leave Iraq haul their bags Thursday in Kuwait City, Kuwait, to head back to the U.S.

Quiet Conclusion in Iraq

As the 8-year war ends, the U.S. warns of challenges ahead

Baghdad

America's war in Iraq came to an unspectacular and uncertain end Thursday at a ceremony held inside fortified blast walls at Baghdad's international airport, not far from where U.S. troops first fought their way into the capital more than eight years ago.

There were speeches paying tribute to the fallen, promising that America would not abandon Iraq and warning of challenges ahead. A band played, and the flag that had flown over the U.S. headquarters was lowered for the last time.

And that was it. No pronouncements of victory, no cheers — only a profound sense that the war's real reckoning is yet to come even as the U.S. role draws to a close.

Gen. Lloyd Austin, the last of the U.S. generals to command U.S. forces in Iraq, addressed the uncertainties when he spoke of the progress made and the opportunities created for Iraqis to live freely. He struck a note of caution, warning that militants may yet disrupt the fragile gains made by Iraqi forces.

No senior Iraqi officials showed up, though the name tags in the front row indicated American hopes that they might. One was for Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, the other for President Jalal Talabani.

Early Ending

Thursday's ceremony in Baghdad effectively ended the war two weeks earlier than necessary under the terms of a 2008 U.S.-Iraq security pact that said troops must be gone by Dec. 31. But commanders decided there was no need to keep troops in Iraq through the holidays as talks about maintaining a U.S. presence had failed. The date of the ceremony had been kept secret for weeks, so as not to give insurgents an opportunity to stage attacks. (TWP)

"After a lot of blood spilled ... the mission of an Iraq that could govern and secure itself has become real."

—**DEFENSE SECRETARY LEON PANETTA,** SPEAKING THURSDAY AS THE U.S. ENDED ITS MILITARY MISSION IN IRAQ.

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta honored the more-than 1 million U.S. troops who have served in Iraq since 2003, including about 4,487 who were killed and about 30,000 who were wounded, and paid tribute to an "independent, free and sovereign Iraq."

"Together with the Iraqi people," Panetta said, "the United States welcomes the next stage in U.S.-Iraqi relations."

And with that, the U.S. military's mission was declared over, eight years, eight months and 25 days after it began. LIZ SLY AND CRAIG WHITLOCK (THE WASHINGTON POST)

Credibility of Egypt's Elections Is Questioned

Cairo

Islamists and liberals accused election officials Thursday of filling out ballot forms for elderly or confused voters at some polling stations during the second round of parliamentary elections. If confirmed as a pattern, the reports could chip away at the credibility of what has so far been the freest vote in Egypt's modern history.

Under Hosni Mubarak's 30-year rule, rigged elections and corruption helped drive the uprising that ousted him in February. But as the polls closed, it was unclear how widespread the problems were.

MOHAMMED ABED/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Election officials on Thursday sort and tally ballots on the outskirts of Cairo.

The election commission chief, Abdel-Moez Ibrahim, said he investigated some incidents and found judges overseeing the voting were helping disabled, illiterate voters. Judges now tell voters asking for help that this is not their role.

"This is the first step toward democracy," said reform leader Mohamed ElBaradei, 68, in casting his vote. Commenting on alleged violations, he said: "This is nothing compared to before."

The second round of voting covered rural areas where the two Islamist blocs that dominated in the first round look poised to cement their overwhelming majority. (AP)

POLITICS

Good Luck Clearing Customs, Though

The Dutch government said Thursday it is delaying plans to ban tourists from buying marijuana until at least May 2012, though it still intends to curtail the country's famed tolerance policy. Cannabis is technically illegal in the Netherlands, but police turn a blind eye to possession of small amounts, and it is sold openly in cafes known euphemistically as "coffee shops." Large-scale growers are prosecuted. (AP)

COMFORT + JOY

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Postponing Christmas

Some Americans place the holiday on hold to afford gifts this season

New York

When Emily Russell's two young sons wake up on Christmas morning, they'll find that Santa left them a note instead of the video games they requested.

"Hey, I couldn't get by your house last night," Russell, a single mother from Kernersville, N.C., plans to write to her sons and sign Santa's name. "Your mom is going to take you to the store when she can."

Some people have always postponed Christmas celebrations because their jobs don't pause for the holiday. But in the weak economy, folks are delaying Christmas for another reason: money.

Deloitte's annual holiday survey for the first time asked shoppers whether they planned to wait until January to do the bulk of their shopping for Christmas. Six percent of the more-than 5,000 respondents said they did.

The strategy can pay off. After Christmas, retailers offer discounts of up to 75 percent on a wider variety of items than they do in the weeks leading up to the holiday.

It's something cost-conscious shoppers have gotten hip to.

Danielle McCurley of Lacey, Wash., is planning to postpone Christmas a couple days. She wants to wait until her financial aid check for her school tuition arrives so she can spend the extra money on gifts.

In normal years, McCurley would have finished her Christmas shopping weeks ago. But this year is different: After losing her job as a home health aide, McCurley, 32, returned to school to study social work this fall. Adding to that, her husband, Mario, was out of work for a year and a half, though he recently found a job as a security guard.

McCurley — who has three children ages 4, 5 and 11 — thinks her youngest two won't really notice. Her oldest will, but she already bought his present: a secondhand netbook that she got for a third of the original price at $100. And she figures her mom, her three brothers and her husband won't really mind the late presents.

"They're adults," McCurley says. "I don't think they'll be too upset."

Meanwhile, Russell isn't sure how her sons, ages 8 and 10, will react when they learn Christmas will come late for them.

Postponing the celebration is the only way Russell, a customer service worker, can manage to afford Christmas this year because she had to take two weeks off without pay recently when her youngest had his tonsils removed.

She figures if she waits until after Christmas to go shopping, she'll be able to scrounge up money to buy each boy a video game, a board game and one piece of clothing.

"It might be a little upsetting to start with," says Russell, 41. "I'll tell them, 'I'm sorry Santa didn't come by today. Maybe he'll come by next week.'" CHRISTINA REXRODE (AP)

22%

The amount by which online shopping on Dec. 26 grew from 2009 to 2010, according to IBM's retail consulting arm, part of a trend reflecting a rise in post-Christmas shopping in the U.S. The rate of online shopping growth on Dec. 27 rose 56 percent in 2010 compared to 2009. (AP)

Backstory

Delaying Christmas Day, originally a Christian holiday to celebrate the birth of Christ, is almost unheard of in some circles. About 95 percent of Americans celebrate Christmas — including 80 percent of non-Christians, Gallup polls say.

But Bruce David Forbes, author of "Christmas: A Candid History," says those who delay festivities can take comfort in the fact that Dec. 25 isn't the date of the birth of Christ.

When Christians started celebrating his birth in the 300s, after the Roman emperor Constantine converted to that religion, they didn't know the birth date, so it appears that they picked a day to coincide with Romans' midwinter celebrations of their own gods. Christians in more eastern countries, such as Turkey and Greece, were already celebrating on Jan. 6.

So, Forbes says if you're celebrating between Dec. 25 and Jan. 6, "you're not even doing it late." (AP)

"JUST BECAUSE IT'S A DAY LATE DOESN'T MEAN IT'S GOING TO BE ANY LESS SPECIAL OR DIDN'T COME FROM THE SAME SENTIMENT. IT JUST MEANS THAT IT'S GOING TO SAVE US 60 PERCENT."

— **ELAINE WU,** 36, WHO HAS A DEAL WITH HER HUSBAND TO WAIT UNTIL THE DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS TO SHOP BECAUSE THEY'VE AGREED NOT TO SPEND MORE THAN $150 FOR EACH OTHER — A DIFFICULT TASK, AS THEY LIKE TO SPLURGE ON UPSCALE HANDBAGS AND SHOES.

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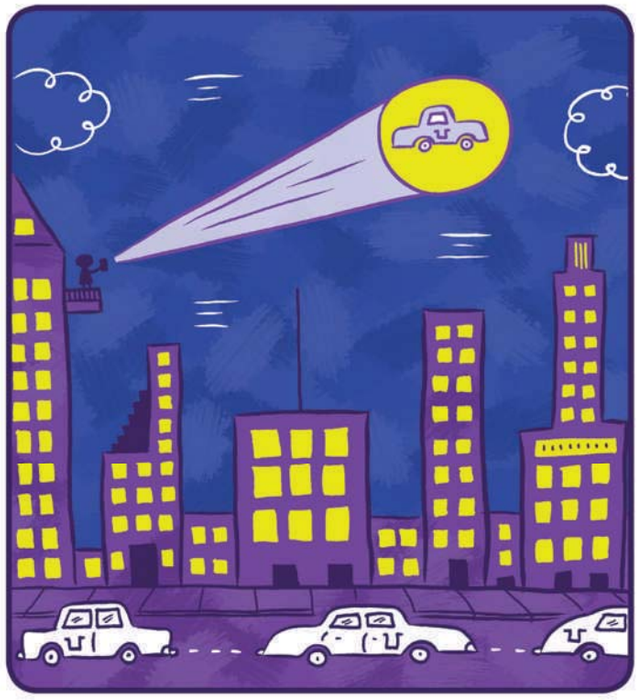

BENDEPENDENT.COM

No-Cash Cabs

My reaction to the D.C. Taxicab Commission's decision to approve a fare hike for 2012: yawn. That's because my days of hailing — and hoping I have enough cash in my wallet to make it to my destination — could be over.

This week marked the official Washington-area launch of Uber, an iPhone and Android app designed to make you feel like you have a private driver at your beck and call. Sign up with your credit card info, and you're ready to ride. The app maps the nearest Uber vehicles (a mix of town cars, SUVs and Mercedes-Benzes from local companies) and offers an estimated wait time. When you tap for a pickup, you can track as the driver heads to your location and you'll get a text when the car is 30 seconds away. Then just hop in, say where you're going and get out at your destination. No cash changes hands.

Washington is the seventh city for the rapidly expanding tech company that crunches usage data to make sure enough cars are on the streets and in the right spots. Across the network, the goal is to have wait times capped at five to 10 minutes. That requires knowledge of the cities, which is why Uber has employees in D.C. focused on understanding the lay of the land.

"For us, one of the big opportunities is the gap between the cab experience and the Uber experience. The quality of cabs can be lower here than in other cities," notes D.C. general manager Rachel Holt. Not only are Uber vehicles guaranteed to be comfortable (several offer water, mints and newspapers for riders), but the drivers have extra incentive to put riders at ease because users can rate them after each trip.

By Vicky Hallett

The concept may sound like it's designed just for lobbyists, but Holt describes it as "affordable luxury." And although the company aims to price its services at about 1½ to two times the price of a cab ride in any given city, D.C.'s extensive list of additional charges made that task tricky. Uber's base rate here is $7, and then it's $3.25 for each mile and 75 cents for each minute of travel time. You're charged the time rate when you're traveling at or below 11 mph and the distance rate when you're going faster. And there's a $15 minimum.

That's higher than the standard cab rates: $3 base fee, $1.50 for each mile. But when you add in the cabs' $1 fuel surcharge, $2 dispatch fee for requesting a ride by phone and $1.50 per additional passenger, it's possible to see how four people taking a short trip might save money with Uber. Did I mention Uber's rate includes a tip?

If even someone as ridiculously cheap as I am sees the benefit in paying more to ensure a convenient, hassle-free ride, that's bad news for cabbies in this city. But maybe it'll be the push they need to up their level of service and finally implement a system to accept credit cards.

Behind Schedule: New rail cars intended to replace the oldest units in Metro's fleet will be delivered five months late because of problems at factories in Japan where some parts are being made, according to Metro GM Richard Sarles. Metro plans to buy 428 of the new rail cars from Kawasaki as part of a contract worth $886 million. Some of the new rail cars were expected to be delivered to Metro in the summer of 2013 but now are expected to be delivered in the winter of 2014. (THE WASHINGTON POST)

Local

'Tis the Season for More Thievery

Police urge residents to protect against unattended deliveries

Washington

After some online Christmas shopping, Sonia Zeledon eagerly awaited the arrival of two packages sent to her Capitol Hill house. When she returned home one day last week, she found the brown boxes delivered, opened and pilfered.

So Zeledon did what many busy people do: She told her friends and neighbors, informed the companies she ordered the packages from — and left the police out of it.

"I figured they were busy doing other things," she said.

Police are urging people to figure otherwise, hoping they can prevent more holiday thefts.

Boxes have been disappearing from homes across the region in recent weeks, putting a damper on the holiday season as thieves help themselves to treasures sitting unattended on doorsteps.

"These are crimes of opportunity," said Commander Daniel Hickson, who is in charge of the police district that includes Capitol Hill.

Police insist that taking the extra step of reporting the incident can help them track down the thieves.

As for Zeledon, she said online shopping is easy and convenient, but it's not worth the trouble if her stuff gets stolen.

"I will taper off my online shopping because of it," Zeledon said. "I don't want to deal with it."

Police say that if you are not home during the day, think about having packages sent to a work address or a neighbor who can keep them for you. UPS said the company recently started an online preference program, in which customers can log in and have packages re-routed to a different address.

ALLISON KLEIN (THE WASHINGTON POST)

TRACY A. WOODWARD/TWP

UPS truck driver Chris Myers preps his load inside the UPS facility in Chantilly, Va., Dec. 2. The company lets customers reroute package destinations to prevent theft.

"I will taper off my online shopping because of [the thefts]. I don't want to deal with it."

— **SONIA ZELEDON,** WHOSE PACKAGES WERE OPENED AND PILFERED ON THE FRONT PORCH OF HER CAPITOL HILL HOME LAST WEEK.

In Brief

WASHINGTON

Barry Faces New Tax Lien

The IRS has filed a new lien against D.C. Council member Marion Barry. The September filing, first reported by The Washington Times, was for more than $3,200 in unpaid federal income taxes for 2010. It came after a separate lien was filed against the former mayor, citing more than $15,000 in unpaid taxes from 2005 to 2008. (AP)

Barry

FAIRFAX

GMU Names President

George Mason University has named Angel Cabrera as its new president. Cabrera will replace Alan Merten, who will be retiring effective June 2012. Cabrera, 44, is currently the president of the Thunderbird School of Global Management in Arizona. (AP)

ANNAPOLIS, MD.

Md. Lawmaker Indicted

A Prince George's County delegate already facing charges of using campaign funds to pay for wedding expenses and the salary of a law firm employee is facing a second indictment. An Anne Arundel County grand jury returned an indictment Thursday charging Delegate Tiffany Alston with theft and misconduct in office. (AP)

The Lotteries

Thursday, Dec. 15

Maryland

Mid-day Pick 3	5-5-6
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	1-2-9
Mid-day Pick 4	2-7-6-8
Evening Pick 4 (Wed.)	6-0-6-8
Match 5 (Wed.)	9-13-21-22-23 (16)
Multi-Match (Wed.)	8-10-14-23-25-40

District

Mid-day Lucky Numbers	1-2-2
Evening Lucky Numbers (Wed.)	6-5-8
Mid-day DC 4	1-7-0-6
Evening DC 4 (Wed.)	7-5-5-4
Mid-day D.C. Five	5-6-1-5-6
Evening D.C. Five (Wed.)	6-7-7-0-0
Hot Lotto (Wed.)	1-6-7-8-16 (9)

Virginia

Mid-day Pick 3	3-1-4
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	2-9-8
Mid-day Pick 4	4-3-0-0
Evening Pick 4 (Wed.)	7-3-0-4
Mid-day Cash 5	9-13-18-23-25
Evening Cash 5 (Wed.)	8-13-20-21-24
Win For Life (Wed.)	9-25-27-35-37-39 (29)

Multi-State Games

Power Play	2-24-46-52-56 (19)
Poweball	5X

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a lottery ticket location or a lottery claims office. Drawings that occur after Express' deadline will be published two days later.

"Washington Ballet's 'Nutcracker' is, once again, plenty sweet" ~The Washington Post

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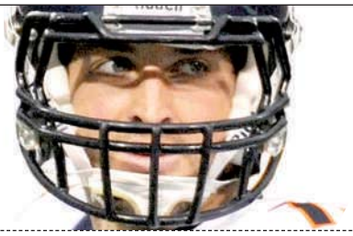
sports

What's not to love about Tim Tebow? It depends on who you ask | 14



TV Lineup

JONATHAN NEWTON/TWP

After a short training camp, the Wizards start the preseason Friday night.

Friday

7 P.M. Get your first look at the Wizards, who play the Philadelphia 76ers in a preseason game. CSN

7 P.M. Mount Union (Ohio) plays Wisconsin-Whitewater in the Division III title game in Salem, Va. ESPN2

Saturday

NOON Georgetown tries to stay hot when hosting American University in a game for local bragging rights. MASN

2 P.M. Bowl season kicks off with Temple playing Wyoming in the New Mexico Bowl. ESPN

5:30 P.M. Ohio and Utah State lock horns in the Famous Idaho Potato Bowl in Boise (where else?). ESPN

8 P.M. The Dallas Cowboys need a win over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers to stay in the NFC East title hunt. NFLN

9 P.M. The Caps visit the Colorado Avalanche. CSN

9 P.M. San Diego State plays Louisiana-Lafayette in the New Orleans Bowl. ESPN

Sunday

1 P.M. The Redskins aim to hurt the Giants' NFC East title chances. Fox

4 P.M. Tim Tebow leads the Denver Broncos against Tom Brady and the Patriots. CBS

5:30 P.M. Virginia's basketball team visits Oregon. CSN

8 P.M. The Baltimore Ravens fly west to play the San Diego Chargers. NBC

RONALD MARTINEZ/GETTY IMAGES

Brian Orakpo sets his sights on Giants QB Eli Manning during the teams' first meeting this year.

Grinch Time

The Redskins embrace their spoiler role in their rematch with the Giants

The Redskins

1 P.M.
Sunday | FOX

The Redskins' surprising 28-14 victory over the New York Giants in Week 1 led fans to believe the 2011 campaign might be something special.

Fourteen weeks later, the Redskins find themselves going into the rematch playing a familiar, unwanted role: spoiler.

At 4-9, Washington will miss the playoffs yet again, but on Sunday they'll have an opportunity to put a dent in New York's playoff hopes by completing a season sweep. It's not much, but it's something.

"That's what it's come down to," defensive end Adam Carriker said. "If we can't get it for ourselves, we're going to try to mess it up for anybody we can, anybody else we play."

The Redskins haven't been very good the past three seasons, so spoiling other teams' playoffs hopes hasn't been easy. Washington's biggest down-the-stretch "upset" in recent memory was a 10-3 win over Philadelphia in Week 16 of the 2008 season that moved the Eagles to the brink of elimination. Philly would go on to the NFC Championship that season anyway.

The Redskins are confident their season-opening win will give them an edge this weekend over the Giants, who are in a dogfight with the Cowboys for the NFC East crown.

"We beat them the first time. We have the formula," linebacker Brian Orakpo said. "We started out on a good note against them, and, hopefully, we can carry it over."

This Giants team won't be the same team, though. In Week 1, defensive stalwarts Osi Umemyiora and Justin Tuck were out of the lineup and QB Eli Manning was shepherding a run-first offense.

New York now possesses a high-flying passing attack, and defensive lineman Jean-Pierre Paul has given the Giants another premier pass rusher, increasing the challenge for the injury- and suspension-riddled Redskins.

"We're going to try to finish the season on the right road," defensive lineman Stephen Bowen said.

While the Redskins would like to throw a wrench in the Giants' plans, most players have said the final three contests represent an opportunity to move forward and show the coaching staff they belong on the roster next year.

"In this situation, we're playing for each other," QB Rex Grossman said. "We're playing to establish our identity on offense, defense and special teams, and trying to get better — to go about it in the right way and pull off a streak of wins here to end the season."

ELLIOTT SMITH

3 Things To Watch

1 Open season: New York WR Victor Cruz is one of a trio of talented receivers who will attempt to exploit a Redskins secondary missing several key contributors.

2 Passing fancy: QB Rex Grossman has an opportunity to put up big numbers against a Giants defense ranked 30th in the league and is particularly weak in the secondary.

3 Line 'em up: Washington's offensive line will get a test from the Giants' pass rush, but it needs to open up consistent holes for RB Roy Helu to help out Grossman. E.S.

"We beat them the first time. We have the formula. We started out on a good note against them, and, hopefully, we can carry it over."

— **REDSKINS LB BRIAN ORAKPO,** WHO IS DRAWING HIS CONFIDENCE THIS WEEK FROM AN OPENING-WEEK WIN OVER THE GIANTS.

Players To Watch

Robert Griffin III, Baylor.
The Heisman Trophy? You may have heard of it — and him.

Case Keenum, Houston.
The sixth-year senior will leave Houston with his own section in the NCAA record book. Being relegated to the TicketCity Bowl after a late-season loss will likely have motivated him to go out with a big game.

Justin Blackmon, Oklahoma State
The All-American is just the second two-time winner of the Biletnikoff Award, given to the nation's top receiver, and a big-play threat every touch.

Andrew Luck, Stanford.
The Cardinal quarterback is the fourth player to be Heisman runner-up in consecutive seasons, a threat to pass or run and the likely No. 1 overall pick in the NFL draft.

BOWLING LESSONS

Bone up on a month's worth of big games

Like it or not, the BCS championship game will be a rematch between LSU and Alabama. Oklahoma State complained it should have had a shot at the top-ranked Tigers. BCS bashers had more fodder for the we-need-a-playoff debate. The good news, particularly if you're in the no-rematch camp, is that there are 34 other bowl games with some great players, great matchups and even some interesting nicknames, starting with that rascally Honey Badger in the Bayou. Here's a rundown of some of the things to look for over the next month or so. JOHN MARSHALL (AP)

Plate Full of Sponsors

After a run of dot-coms, food-related companies have been kings of the bowl-game sponsorships recently, and this year is no different with seven: Tostitos, Beef O'Brady's, Chick-fil-A, Outback, Little Caesars Pizza, Kraft Fight Hunger and Famous Idaho Potato. OK, so Fight Hunger is more of a cause and the Idaho bowl is sponsored by a spud commission, but this is a loosely based count. Financial companies are right behind with six, and the auto industry pulls in with five. There are also sponsorships from a helicopter company; an aerospace and defense contractor; a department store; a moving company; one that sells blank T-shirts and sweatshirts that can later be screened; and a ticket broker.

Best Nicknames

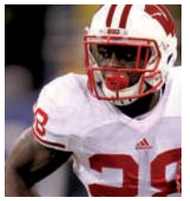
Every team has players with nicknames. Here are some of the coolest we could find.

Honey Badger, LSU defensive back Tyrann Mathieu, above. He doesn't like the ode to the furry and ferocious little beast, but it's not going anywhere.
Wolf Man, Utah running back John White. He has a tattoo of a wolf on his chest because wolves roll in packs and eat meat to the bone.
Zeus, Alabama's Dont'a Hightower. A mythologically proportioned linebacker at 6-foot-4, 260 pounds.
Sharks, Oklahoma's defensive backs. Pulled from a Lil Wayne song, quite catchy.

TOP GAMES

Even if you're not a fan of LSU and Alabama's getting a return engagement in the BCS title game, you HAVE to watch. It is for the national title, after all. But there are plenty of other games worth watching.

Fiesta Bowl, Stanford versus Oklahoma State, Jan. 2, Glendale, Ariz. — If the national championship game were to have an undercard, this could be it. Two great offenses, two great quarterbacks in Andrew Luck and Brandon Weeden, above — expect lots of yards and points in what has the potential to be the most entertaining bowl of them all.



Rose Bowl, Wisconsin versus Oregon, Jan. 2, Pasadena, Calif. — Speaking of shows, how about Badgers running back Montee Ball, left, and Ducks dynamo LaMichael James trading jukes and touchdowns? It's going to be some day on the couch the day after New Year's.

Alamo Bowl, Baylor versus Washington, Dec. 29, San Antonio — Robert Griffin III on one side, Keith Price and Chris Polk on the other, not a lot of defense. Yeah, this is going to be good.

Cotton Bowl, Arkansas versus Kansas State, Jan. 6, Arlington, Texas — Arkansas' two losses were to LSU and Alabama; K-State's to the two big Oklahoma schools. That's all you need to know.

THE LOCAL GAME

Military Bowl, Air Force versus Toledo, Dec. 28, 4:30 p.m., RFK Stadium. With Navy ineligible for a bowl this season, the game's organizers were thrilled to land Air Force as a service-academy substitute. The Falcons will be making their fifth-straight bowl appearance. On the other side, Toledo comes in red-hot, having won seven of its last eight games to finish with an 8-4 record.

WHAT ODDSMAKERS SAY

+1 The spread on the championship game between LSU and Alabama, a rematch in which the Tigers are favored; it's the closest contest according to oddsmakers.

+14 Oklahoma's odds of beating Iowa in the Insight Bowl, the biggest spread of any of the bowl games this year.

By the Numbers

599 Yards of offense averaged by Houston, the best in the nation.

986 Over/under on the number of times TV announcers say Urban Meyer's name during the Gator Bowl between his former team, Florida, and his new one, Ohio State.

4.2K The approximate number of miles Southern Mississippi will travel to play in the Hawaii Bowl, the longest trip of any team this postseason. The trade-off — they get to be in Hawaii.

41 Years since Louisiana-Lafayette last played in a bowl game. The Ragin' Cajuns face San Diego State in the New Orleans Bowl.

8 Wins in Texas this season by Baylor, which plays in the Alamo Bowl in San Antonio.

13 The number of straight seasons Oklahoma has gone to a bowl game.

sports

'We're Ready to Make a Jump'

The Wizards count on young players to speed improvement

The Wizards

Wizards owner Ted Leonsis turned to an unlikely source for inspiration on the eve of the abbreviated NBA preseason: Enzo Ferrari.

"He was the first race car owner and driver to get rid of the rearview mirror of the car," Leonsis said Thursday at the team's media day. "He said, 'I don't want anyone looking back. I want my drivers only looking forward.' I think that's an appropriate way to kick off the season."

A year removed from the end of the Gilbert Arenas era, and with a 23-59 record and a last-place finish in the Southeast Division lingering in the figurative rearview mirror, the Wizards are in full-on optimism mode as the lockout-delayed start to the 2011-12 season approaches. With the team's youth movement a year further along, the expectations — specifically for players like low-post threats Andray Blatche and JaVale McGee — continue to rise.

Much of the buzz, though, surrounds the second-year progression of star guard John Wall and the integration of a rookie class featuring athletic 7-footer Jan Vesely, Florida State ace defender Chris Singleton and Butler guard Shelvin Mack.

"I think we're ready to make a jump," third-year coach Flip Saunders said. "There's no question that we've gotten the caliber of players, very competitive players."

With the lockout shortening the season to a 66-game slate that will force teams to play opponents on back-to-back nights more often than usual, having reliable depth and younger, fresher players who can recuperate quickly should be an advantage.

"It reminds me of an AAU season, when we played five games in one day," Wall said. "It can be tough at times, but I think it should help us, because we're a young team, and we've got young legs."

The hope in the Wizards' camp is that those young, fresh legs are the engine for an exuberant team that leaves its older, slower opposition in the dust. Just like a Ferrari. AVI CREDITOR

Wizards 101

- **To the Wall:** John Wall, shown, is already the established leader of the Wizards, but he has room for improvement. Wall spent the bulk of the offseason working on his clunky jump shot.
- **Short preseason:** The Wizards kick off their abbreviated preseason Friday night against the Philadelphia 76ers at Verizon Center (7 p.m., CSN). Four days later, they'll take on the 76ers in Philadelphia before returning home ahead of the season opener against New Jersey on Dec. 26. A.C.

GETTY IMAGES

Lamont Peterson lands a punch on Amir Khan in last Saturday's fight.

Khan Disputes Peterson's Win

Boxing

British boxer Amir Khan appealed the scoring in his split-decision loss to D.C. native Lamont Peterson in their light-welterweight title fight last Saturday in Washington.

"We'll find out in the next five to seven days if the decision is overturned," Khan told Sky Sports News on Thursday. "If that's the case, I will give him a rematch to settle the score."

The 25-year-old is challenging the decision to deduct points on two occasions for pushing. (AP)

Sunday Pick'Em

	Matt Swenson, SPORTS EDITOR, EXPRESS	Clinton Yates, LUNCHLINE, EXPRESS	Tommy Keeffe, BAR MANAGER, PUBLIC BAR	Arnie Applebaum, GENERAL MANAGER, EXPRESS
REDSKINS (PLUS 6.5) AT GIANTS	**GIANTS** Rex Grossman is at least making the Redskins' games enjoyable to watch.	**GIANTS** I expect to see a lot of salsa dancing in the end zone at the Meadowlands.	**GIANTS** "I'm good enough, smart enough, and doggone it, people like me." - Eli Manning	**GIANTS** Redskins play well and protect their draft position. Best of both worlds.
PATRIOTS (MINUS 6.5) AT BRONCOS	**BRONCOS** The Patriots are due for a loss the way they've been playing. Plus, there's that Tebow guy.	**BRONCOS** Even in the BT (Before Tebow) era, Tom Brady was 1-5 against the Broncos in his career.	**PATRIOTS** Tebow has resurrected Broncos' season, but in the AFC, Belichick and Brady walk on water.	**PATRIOTS** I feel like I may be picking against a (much) higher power.
JETS (MINUS 3) AT EAGLES	**J-E-T-S** The Eagles keep on getting on the edge of the playoff fight, then lose another game.	**EAGLES** Everyone on that team from players to coaches is fighting for a job at this point.	**EAGLES** Vick relishes his role as spoiler. Desean Jackson is just a hot dog.	**EAGLES** I'm not confident about this one. I hope I'm wrong.
RAVENS (MINUS 1.5) AT CHARGERS	**RAVENS** The Norv Turner era is coming to an end in San Diego.	**RAVENS** The Chargers are looking better, but I don't think this game will ever be close.	**RAVENS** All Chargers fans want for Christmas is a new head coach and maybe snow.	**RAVENS** Ravens need the win. Chargers have Norv. Do the math.
STEELERS (PLUS 2.5) AT 49ERS	**49ERS** With Big Ben hurt, the Steelers might just settle for a wild-card spot.	**49ERS** The Steelers don't have a chance with Harrison suspended and Big Ben injured.	**49ERS** Patrick Willis channels his inner Bruce Willis, as Steelers running backs Die Hard.	**STEELERS** The 49ers are switching over to cruise control. The Steelers need the win.

Season Tally: Public Bar, 38-22; Matt Swenson, 38-22; Dan Steinberg, 35-30; Clinton Yates, 34-26; Arnie Applebaum, 32-28

Swengali

A True Believer In Tebow's Talent

Some people love that Tim Tebow can't throw the ball very well. Others hate that he's better on his feet.

Some people love that all that Tebow does, be it at Florida or now in Denver, is win. Others hate him for his success.

By Matt Swenson

And, not that this pertains to football, some people love that Tebow is so vocal about his religious beliefs. Others hate all of the God talk.

Me? I love that Tebow is about to lead the Broncos to the playoffs even though his coach, John Fox, and general manager, John Elway, don't believe in him.

The most-talked-about football player on the planet has resurrected Denver's season.

Never mind that the most-talked-about football player on the planet has resurrected Denver's season. Forget that he is making converts out of almost everybody who believes in traditional NFL offense. Certainly, ignore the Broncos' uncanny confidence, which stems from their leader.

Fox and Elway won't commit to Tebow as their starter. They keep calling him a "great" kid. The "great" part is right, anyway. His story is overshadowing the Packers' run at perfection.

Can Tebow keep this up long-term? Even Tebow would say only God knows. Surely, he will become a better passer, but he may never come close to what Elway was in his prime.

Regardless, the fact is that the Broncos are relevant now because of him. Tebow will always be a divisive figure, and as a result, I'd love it if he could stick it to his haters.

@ To reach Matt Swenson, e-mail matt.swenson@readexpress.com

weekend 12.16.11

lookout

Gift Guide: FILL STOCKINGS WITH PENCILS, STUFFED BEARS, SACHETS AND FAUX SNOW 19

DIYule

Cookie pops, pingpong ball garlands and other treats to craft a happy holiday 20

MARGE ELY/EXPRESS

facetime

CHRISTINE CEPPAS

Jacques Pepin

RENOWNED CHEF, JULIA CHILD'S BUDDY

Before Paula and Rachael, there was a French dreamboat on your TV screen and alongside Julia Child, teaching you to make a country omelette. Jacques Pepin, 76, now issues his most complete recipe book, "Essential Pepin" ($40, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt), featuring more than 700 of his favorite recipes and an instructional DVD on technique. We talked baguette and the good old life with the Dauphin of French food.

Why did you decide to compile your best recipes in one volume?

It wasn't my idea, but I had over 2,000 recipes to choose from, and the idea was to leave them just as they were. Exactly what I did 10 years ago, or even 30 years ago. So I chose 700, and we added the DVD, which is very important. It's a course in technique and cooking in itself.

You taught America to cook.

Well, I don't know about that!

You did! Do you consider yourself more of a teacher or chef?

That's a good question. Probably more of a teacher now. I've been teaching at the French Culinary Institute for 25 years now. When I write a recipe, I always think of simplifying it or explaining it to make it comprehensible.

At one point, you were the personal chef to then-President of France Charles de Gaulle. What did you learn from cooking for world leaders?

The chef was really at the bottom of the scale. When I served the president in France, I dealt with Madame de Gaulle, of course, to set up the menu; I served many heads of state — Eisenhower and others. But in that day, the cook was in his place in the kitchen, and that was about the end of it. If there is something wrong, someone might see you in the kitchen and complain. But the cook was never seen.

"Relax, have a glass of wine, roast a chicken, do a tomato salad and you'll be happy, you know."

What has been your driving philosophy as both a chef and a teacher?

Probably simplicity of recipe. Maybe I'm still French, in that sense. I try to break down a recipe to make it simpler. Even a recipe that I did years ago, I say, "Why did I do that?" I can do it much simpler. Quality of ingredients is also important.

You've seen culinary culture change so much over past decades. What do you say to people who are kind of overwhelmed by the foodie world?

I tell them don't worry about it, because I am just as overwhelmed as you are. Relax, have a glass of wine [laughs], roast a chicken, do a tomato salad and you'll be happy, you know.

You've said in the past that tastes get simpler with age. What are your favorite dishes now?

Bread and butter. If you can have the most extraordinary bread in the world and the most extraordinary butter, it's hard to beat.

KATHERINE BOYLE (EXPRESS)

Event Horizon | Sparkling Fine

Alice Kresse's Space Age-y epoxy brooches; Eric Burri's mod, Japanese-looking rings; Kate Rieppel's delicate, enamel-on-silver earrings; and baubles by 11 other local jewelry designers star in a show and sale. Free. Fri., 2-9 p.m.; Puro Cafe, 1529 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-787-1937.

goods lookout

1 Time to Get Lit

FORGET ABOUT EIGHT NIGHTS of presents. A much better Hanukkah tradition: Eight nights of wine — preferably kosher. But you'd better be done with your "L'Chaims" by the time you stick in the Menorah Cork ($18, Fredflare.com). The dripping candle wax will definitely help prevent a repeat of that embarrassing Purim incident, and the stopper will keep whatever you don't drink fresh until the next evening. According to Food & Wine, latkes pair well with sauvignon blanc.

Grab Bag

2 Buy, Wear, Love

NO ONE HAS DONE more for the island of Bali (at least, in popular chick culture) than "Eat, Pray, Love" author Elizabeth Gilbert. But jewelry company Anna Beck ranks a close second. The Los Angeles-based line produces a breezy selection of styles on the island, drawing on both its textile traditions and metalworking ways. Through Sunday, Betsy Fisher (1224 Connecticut Ave. NW; 202-785-1975) hosts a pop-up shop of the brand's gold-dotted silver statement rings ($200), funky labradorite pendants ($163) and stackable bangles. Whether you wear them to do downward dog or eat pasta is your call.

3 Island Magic

CHICKEN BREASTS FOR DINNER? Um, boring, mon, unless you're drumming up more interesting flavors via Saint Ann's Bay Jamaican Marinade ($6, Whole Foods). Its spicy (cinnamon, peppers, etc.) tang made ordinary fowl something that tasted party-ready, or at least worthy of playing a few old-school Steel Pulse songs.

4 Pink Merry

OK, GUYS, we know: We ladies do not need more lipstick. We have so many we forget they're there, sinking to the bottom of our purses. We may not need four shades of rosy hues or the harmony of two lipsticks, gloss and balm in one compact little case. But with a sweet, tweedy box already gift-wrapped with a silver bow, Dior has made its Holiday Lip Palette ($46, Saksfifthavenue.com) so easy for you to give us. It's unnecessary, but still adored.

POTTERY BARN

5 Beowolfing It Down

YOUR ATTEMPTS at having a "Game of Thrones"-themed holiday have been only partially successful. Not-so-cool: wearing a Ren Fest codpiece and tights to your office party. Better: serving mead at bashes and picking up a set of cocktail swords (shown, $39, Pottery Barn stores) so guests can spear highball garnishes, cheese cubes or — maybe — deep-fried dragon morsels. Similarly medieval in feel: the chain's crested barware (sets of four, $38), which makes the dullest drinks seem fit for royalty.

Grab Bag is gathered and reviewed by Jennifer Barger and Katherine Boyle. Find more food, fashion, beauty and home goods at expressnightout.com/grabbag.

Dear Manolo

ANSWERS FROM THE SHOE BLOGGER

My semi-serious boyfriend of five months has asked me to come to his parents' house for dinner on Christmas Day. I met them once before, and I don't think it went so well, so I really want to make a good impression this time. What sort of shoes do you suggest?
— JEANNIE

Manolo says, there are the reasons why the holidays are usually reckoned to be the most stressful time of the year. Not only must we get everyone the exactly perfect gift, and make every meal and every occasion festively wonderful, but we are frequently required to make nice with people who may not be especially fond of us.

And yet, this is for the best, is it not? It is good that we should attempt to be reconciled, one to another, during this most wonderful time of the year.

This is why the celebrations and the holidays are so important, because they are moments in which we can put aside our differences and be drawn closer together as humans.

And so, we must approach these events in the proper spirit of charity and love, reminding ourselves that in doing so we are helping to make our relationships stronger.

Of the course, it helps if you have handsome shoes, shoes that impart confidence and make you seem like the person of quality.

Here is the Spymid from Stuart Weitzman ($218, Zappos.com), the modest peep-toe pump in the color known as Fire Quasar. It also comes in the basic black.

Ask the Manolo a question at manolo@shoeblogs.com. Visit the Manolo at shoeblogs.com.

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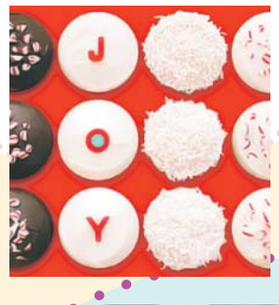

6 TUMI

This holiday season, treat everyone on your list to gifts that will take them from the conference room to cocktails in style. From sleek stocking stuffers and tech-savvy electronics, to classic travel and business favorites, Tumi offers a variety of options to sneak beneath the tree.

202.298.6670 1243 Wisconsin Ave., NW
www.tumi.com

7 Hugh & Crye

Who said blue shirts have to be boring? Slim fitting shirts are the perfect gift from the Georgetown based shirtmaker, Hugh & Crye. Order online or shop at their new showroom. Pictured– the Borg button-down sport shirt, and Trafalgar semi-spread collar with convertible (link) cuffs in navy window-pane check.

202.250.3807 3212 O Street NW #5
www.hughandcrye.com

8 Appalachian Spring

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202.965.9736
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202.333.2266
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gift guide lookout

Sock It to 'Em

Good things (diamonds, Swiss chocolates, wads of money) often come in small packages. But when it comes to stuffing loved ones' stockings, it's the element of surprise and whimsy that matters most. Here are a dozen treats from local shops to keep them grinning through New Year's. JENNIFER BARGER (EXPRESS)

1. Vintage pencils, nicely packaged ($27; GoodWood, 1428 U St. NW; 202-986-3640). **2.** His and hers ornaments ($48; Tabletop, 1608 20th St. NW; 202-387-7117). **3.** A lollipop-shaped speaker for I-everythings ($20; Home Rule, 1807 14th St. NW; 202-797-5544). **4.** Wry fingernail and toenail clippers ($4; Home Rule). **5.** A beer opener as simple and chic as a PBR ($22; GoodWood). **6.** Lavender sachets sewn from exotic silk ($12 for two; Timothy Paul Bedding & Home, 1529 14th St. NW; 202-234-2020). **7.** Chopsticks go cheeky ($9; Home Rule). **8.** Rubber coasters pretend to be tiles ($15; Home Rule). **9.** A striped bear gets comfy in an Indian fabric stocking ($15 and $42; Timothy Paul). **10.** Summon a snowpocalypse with faux flakes ($5; Home Rule). **11.** A soft book for little ones ($22; Timothy Paul). **12.** Deck the halls with sushi rolls ($9; Home Rule).

lookout home

Homespun Holidays

Deck your pad — and parties — with hip trimmings and treats you make yourself

'Tis the season of folly: strapping 9-foot evergreens to the top of the Zipcar, decking the halls with LED lights that blink to "Feliz Navidad." Too bad your apartment has only 8-foot ceilings and, whoops, that inflated electricity bill decimated your gift budget.

But yuletide cheer doesn't have to mean buying out the pop-up garland emporium. Merrymakers might turn instead to the craft aisle — or, better yet, the recycling bin. "It's a good feeling when people ask you where you got your holiday decorations and you say you made them yourself," says Paul Lowe, the Brooklyn creator of the Sweet Paul blog and magazine.

This time of year, DIY inspiration is everywhere — whimsical store displays lining 14th Street, design blogs, websites such as Pinterest.com. "You can't overdo holiday decorations. It's only up for a couple of weeks, so more is better," says Pixie Windsor, owner of Miss Pixie's Furnishings & Whatnot (1626 14th St. NW; 202-232-8171), which drips with shiny vintage ornaments and glass baubles for the holidays. "Load the chandelier with ornaments to add sparkle, drape garland over doorways — schlock up the place."

And there's no need to stick to the tried-and-trad color combo of red and green, either. Go glam with metallics, cozy with rich plaids or mod with jewel tones. Says Lowe: "When it comes to the holidays, make your own traditions."

KATIE KNOROVSKY

Degree of difficulty: ❄❄❄❄ (for time and effort)

Sparkling Wine Bottles

Think of this project from FreshHomeIdeas.com like a clever metaphor: An emptied wine bottle lights up the room when filled with twinkle lights; emptying the bottle is likely to get you lit, too.

HOW TO: Remove the label and scrub off any residue. Using a half-inch drill bit for glass, carefully drill a hole in the glass an inch or two from the bottom of the bottle. Make sure the hole is large enough for light bulbs plus string to fit through. Carefully feed a small string of lights into the hole, leaving enough of a tail to plug it in.

MARGE ELY PHOTOS/EXPRESS

Degree of difficulty: ❄❄ (for time)

Punch

Savvy hosts know the best way to make a houseguest feel welcome is by minimizing the amount of time spent sans drink in hand. The solution sent down from the domestic gods: a bowl or pitcher of punch planted near the door.

HOW TO: Following a recipe on Foodandwine.com, we chose a citrus-heavy punch laced with a festive kick of cinnamon (and booze). Boil 2 ¼ cups orange juice (fresh or from the bottle), strips of zest from two oranges and three broken-up cinnamon sticks until the juice has reduced to one cup (roughly 10 minutes). Strain and let cool. In a large pitcher, combine the chilled orange reduction with 3 cups orange juice, 2 cups red grapefruit juice and one tablespoon grenadine syrup (to make your own, boil pure pomegranate juice with sugar, 2-to-1, until reduced by half and syrupy). Stir well and chill. Just before serving, add 20 ounces grapefruit soda and orange slices dusted with ground cinnamon. Spike with Grand Marnier, cognac or the spirit of your choice.

home lookout

Degree of difficulty: ❄❄❄ (for time)

Wrapped Wreath

"A wreath makes anything festive, whether you hang it on your front door or window, place it on the dining table, or hang it from a mirror," Lowe says.

HOW TO: Personalize yours by carefully wrapping a favorite letter (try Hobby Lobby) — a monogram or otherwise — with jute twine or yarn, then bedazzling it with felt holly or flowers (search "felt flower tutorial" online).

Pingpong Ball Garland

Deck your walls (or mantels or railings) with transformed table-tennis leftovers.

Degree of difficulty: ❄❄ (for time)

HOW TO: Take plain white pingpong balls (we used about five dozen) and spray-paint two-thirds of them in two colors of your choice. (Metallic hues are nice in a holiday-at-the-disco way.) You'll need to coat them twice and let them dry in between. To keep the orbs from rolling around and spreading paint everywhere, lay them in shallow boxes. After the balls are dry (overnight or a bit longer), assemble your supplies: a few yards of yarn or similarly thin string, thread or ribbon (we used elastic, metallic trim); a doll maker's needle (sold at Michaels or fabric stores). Stick the needle through the balls, one at a time, and start stringing them. You can tie knots in between the balls, or, if your stringing material is thick enough, simply pull the balls along the line and arrange them in random patterns.

ON THE COVER

Gingerbread Stick Men

Remember those state fairs or childhood summers? Well, everything is still better on a stick — gingerbread cookies included. "Especially at the holidays, everyone likes nostalgia and stuff they had as kids," Windsor says.

HOW TO: Whip up a batch of your favorite gingerbread cookies (we found our recipe at 101cookbooks.com), then gently press the doughy men onto Popsicle sticks or wooden chopsticks. The cookies will bake onto the sticks, and, voila! Eating — and displaying — the cookies becomes infinitely more fun.

Degree of difficulty: ❄ (tasty and easy!)

Magazine Trees

Turn the page on deforestation by making festive trees from discarded magazines.

HOW TO: Starting with the first page of a magazine, fold the upper right corner into the spine and crease well; then fold the diagonal line into the spine and crease well. You should now have an acute triangle. Tuck the tip that points downward up so the fold is flush with the bottom of the magazine. Repeat with every page; then carefully remove the cover and back cover. You may want to glue two magazines together at the spine for a fuller tree (now's a good time to lament the fate of print journalism). For a snow-frosted look, spray with adhesive and sprinkle with glitter.

Degree of difficulty: ❄ (easier than it seems!)

"It's only up for a couple of weeks, so more is better."

— **PIXIE WINDSOR,** OWNER OF MISS PIXIE'S FURNISHINGS & WHATNOT

lookout entertainment

The Reelist

PARAMOUNT PICTURES

2Cruel 2B 4Gotten?

Recently, after discussing the various hells of high school with my husband, I looked up on Facebook the girl who was mean to me. (Nothing really serious; just some late-bus harassment, mostly focusing on my hair.) She looked happy.

I'd venture to say that most women had their own high school nemesis. In "Young Adult," Charlize Theron is Mavis, a former high school in-crowder who can't let go. Though she has a job and an apartment and other grown-up things, her heart is still walking the locker-lined halls she once ruled. She returns to her hometown to break up the marriage of her teenage sweetheart and finds that everyone else is, you know, normal.

By Kristen Page-Kirby

For me, what best captures Mavis' realization that she's no longer someone to be feared or envied are not the scenes with the boyfriend (Patrick Wilson) or even the nerd she never noticed (Patton Oswalt) — it's the brief scene with a group of women who also went to school with her. Mavis is rattled to find out that not only don't they think ill of her, but they don't think of her at all. They have lives that leave them no time to focus on what happened 20 years ago. They're happy — not in spite of Mavis, not because of Mavis, but because they just are. Living well might be the best revenge, but "Young Adult" shows that simply forgetting can be a powerful weapon, too.

@ Read Kristen's previous columns at: **expressnightout.com/thereelist**

PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Almost 50, Tom Cruise still does his own stunts in his fourth "Mission: Impossible" film, which finds the star climbing the windows of the world's tallest building in Dubai.

On Cruise Control

Ethan Hunt returns with explosive action and thrilling stunts in 'Ghost Protocol'

Film Review

Hand it to Tom Cruise: Even on the cusp of the creaky age of 50, he still manages to do his own stunts, look studly in a suit and maintain perfect hair sweepage.

All those talents come into play in "Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol," the fourth installment of Cruise's behemoth of a franchise, in which his IMF agent Ethan Hunt bears more similarity to a steroid-popping James Bond than the urbane super-spies of the long-lost television series.

Having banished forever the reel-to-reel tapes and latex masks that distinguished that cozy Sunday-night ritual, Cruise has turned the series over to concussive action and eye-popping set pieces designed to show himself off in the very best, most masculine light.

"Ghost Protocol," which marks the live-action debut of Pixar director Brad Bird ("The Incredibles," "Ratatouille"), possesses the requisite number of expertly choreographed "How'd they do that?" scenes, and some terrific supporting performances from "Mission: Impossible" veterans and newcomers.

Simon Pegg, returning from his "M:I" debut in the last film, provides a hugely welcome dose of lightness and comic relief as Benji, a meek British computer nerd who has finally managed to score a gig in the field. Paula Patton and Jeremy Renner, as new additions to Ethan's team, hit their marks with professionalism and physical competence, with Renner in particular proving that he's ready to assume the central role in the "M:I" franchise if or when Cruise finally hangs up his carabiners.

For now, though, the audience is instructed to sit back and admire Cruise's physical prowess, which is put most notably on display in "Ghost Protocol's" spectacular stunt-centerpiece, in which Ethan must climb the outside windows of the Burj Khalifa tower in Dubai (the world's tallest building), smash in a window, replace a dingus in a computer server, then swing back into his room — all with one hand tied behind his back, at least figuratively, when he loses one of his gecko-esque suction-cup gloves.

Running, jumping, scaling glass walls, driving random BMWs — Ethan can do it all, and by extension, so can Cruise, a case of self-flattery-by-proxy that as both the series and its lead actor age, has begun to take on the whiff of compensatory overkill.

ANN HORNADAY (THE WASHINGTON POST)

Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (PG-13)

- **Director:** Brad Bird
- **Stars:** Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner, Paula Patton, Simon Pegg
- **In a Nutshell:** The IMF shuts down after it's implicated in a bombing of the Kremlin, causing Ethan Hunt and his new team to go rogue to clear their organization's name.

Historic Preservation: In an effort to bring revenue to U Street's financially floundering Lincoln Theatre, Landmark Theatres will sponsor screenings of David Fincher's "The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo" at the historic, 1,225-seat venue. Proceeds from ticket sales will go to the city, according to the Washington City Paper. The film, which stars Rooney Mara, shown, opens Dec. 21, with three showings set for each day of the four-week run. (EXPRESS)

entertainment lookout

Spies, Slowed Down

Film Review

"Trust no one, Jim," the British spy chief Control (John Hurt) says as "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy" opens. "especially no one in the mainstream." With those tantalizing words of advice, the game is deliciously afoot in Tomas Alfredson's long-awaited adaptation of John le Carre's Cold War-era spy novel.

Set in 1973, Gary Oldman stars as the masterfully reticent career spook George Smiley, who'd been forced into retirement from M16 but is rehired to uncover a mole.

If "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy" marks the triumphant return of Oldman to center stage after years of supporting work, the movie still works best as a sprawling ensemble saga, with terrific performances from the likes of Colin Firth and Ciaran Hinds, as well as relative newcomers Tom Hardy and Benedict Cumberbatch, who exudes level-headed eagerness as Smiley's right-hand man, Peter Guillam.

After being 3-D'd, CGI'd and IMAX'd-out all year, "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy" asks viewers to slow down their cinematic metabolisms, an adjustment that feels not just pleasant but positively life-saving.

ANN HORNADAY (THE WASHINGTON POST)

JACK ENGLISH

Benedict Cumberbatch, left, and Gary Oldman, right, in "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy."

Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy (R)

- **Director:** Tomas Alfredson
- **Stars:** Gary Oldman
- **In a Nutshell:** During the Cold War, spy vet George Smiley is forced out of semi-retirement to uncover a Soviet agent within MI6's echelons.

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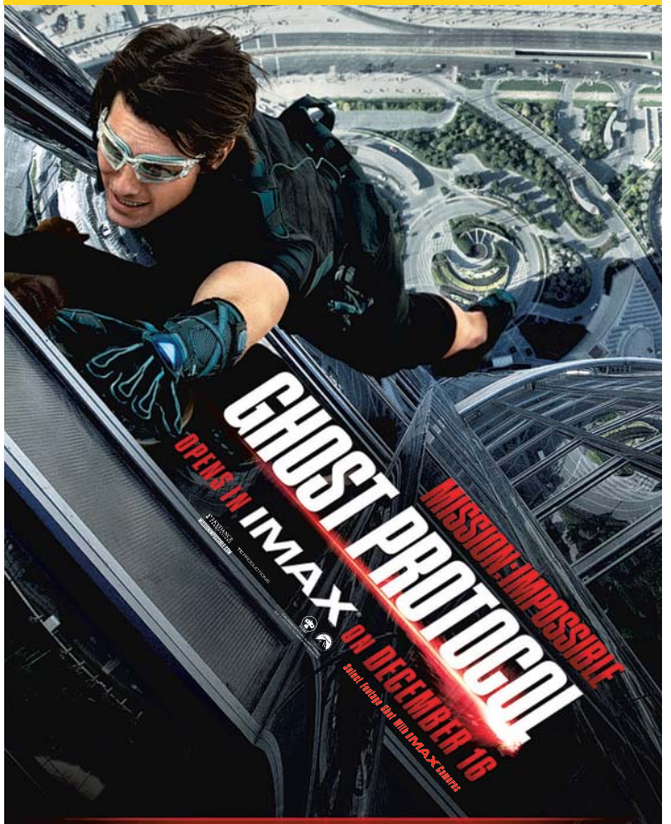

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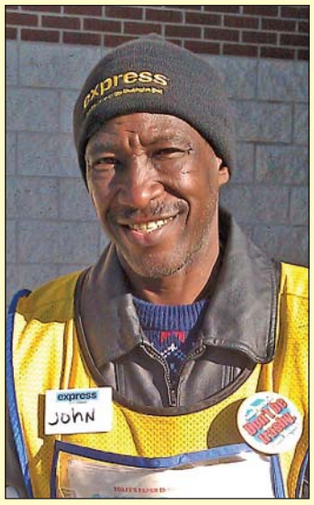

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— Tenleytown Metro rider

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lookout entertainment

Ugly on the Inside

Charlize Theron takes a transfixing turn in the dark 'Young Adult'

Film Review

A funny thing has happened to Mavis Gary, the title character in "Young Adult," a dark comedy from "Juno's" writing-directing team of Diablo Cody and Jason Reitman.

Not that anyone is laughing at Mavis. Though marketed as a comedy, this film is too creepy and acerbic to be consistently comic.

Mavis (Charlize Theron) is a 37-year-old divorced writer facing the cancellation of her popular series of young adult novels. Lonely and depressed, Mavis shuffles around her apartment in sweatpants, swilling booze, eating fast food, watching bad TV and having meaningless sex, all the while making insensitive comments about other people.

Theron's performance is as hard to look away from as it to watch, especially when Mavis decides to return to the Podunk where she grew up to seduce Buddy (Patrick Wilson), the guy she dated in high school. Never mind that Buddy is now happily married.

Most of the laughs come courtesy of Matt (Patton Oswalt), the overweight-geek former classmate of Mavis' who improbably reconnects with her. Matt may be the only character who's able to look Mavis in the eye, and she's the only one who really sees him. MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN

PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Charlize Theron, right, plots to seduce Patrick Wilson, left, in "Young Adult."

Young Adult (R)

- **Director:** Jason Reitman
- **Writer:** Diablo Cody
- **Stars:** Charlize Theron, Patrick Wilson and Patton Oswalt
- **In a Nutshell:** Soon after her divorce, a fiction writer returns to her home in small-town Minnesota, looking to rekindle a romance with her ex-boyfriend, who is now married with kids.

Action, Not Intellect

Film Review

Victoriana buffs will not be amused by "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows," but it's a modest improvement on bad-boy director Guy Ritchie's first tweaking of Arthur Conan Doyle's iconic detective.

Not because it's more subtle: This sequel is just as profligate as its 2009 predecessor, with explosions, anachronisms and quick cuts. But the dialogue is a little sharper, and Holmes gets a worthy opponent in Professor Moriarty, who might be smarter than Doyle's beloved hero — even if the prof's sinister plot turns to be just plain dumb.

Robert Downey Jr. plays Holmes as brainy yet highly physical, and keen on dressing up. "A Game of Shadows" introduces him in Chinese drag and doesn't waste much time getting him into a wig and a dress. Jude Law returns as Dr. Watson, Holmes' famous sidekick.

"A Game of Shadows" draws on Doyle's tales but relies more on Hong Kong's 1980s new wave, as filtered through Quentin Tarantino. Extreme close-ups, violent edits and slo-mo inserts are used to depict both visceral action and Holmes' methodical thought. Thinking, however, is not the movie's priority. The game here is action-farce, and that's better played with swagger than intellect. MARK JENKINS (TWP)

WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Watson (Jude Law), left, and Holmes (Robert Downey Jr.), right are at it again.

Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13)

- **Director:** Guy Ritchie
- **Stars:** Robert Downey Jr.
- **In a Nutshell:** Sherlock and Dr. Watson battle Professor Moriarty.

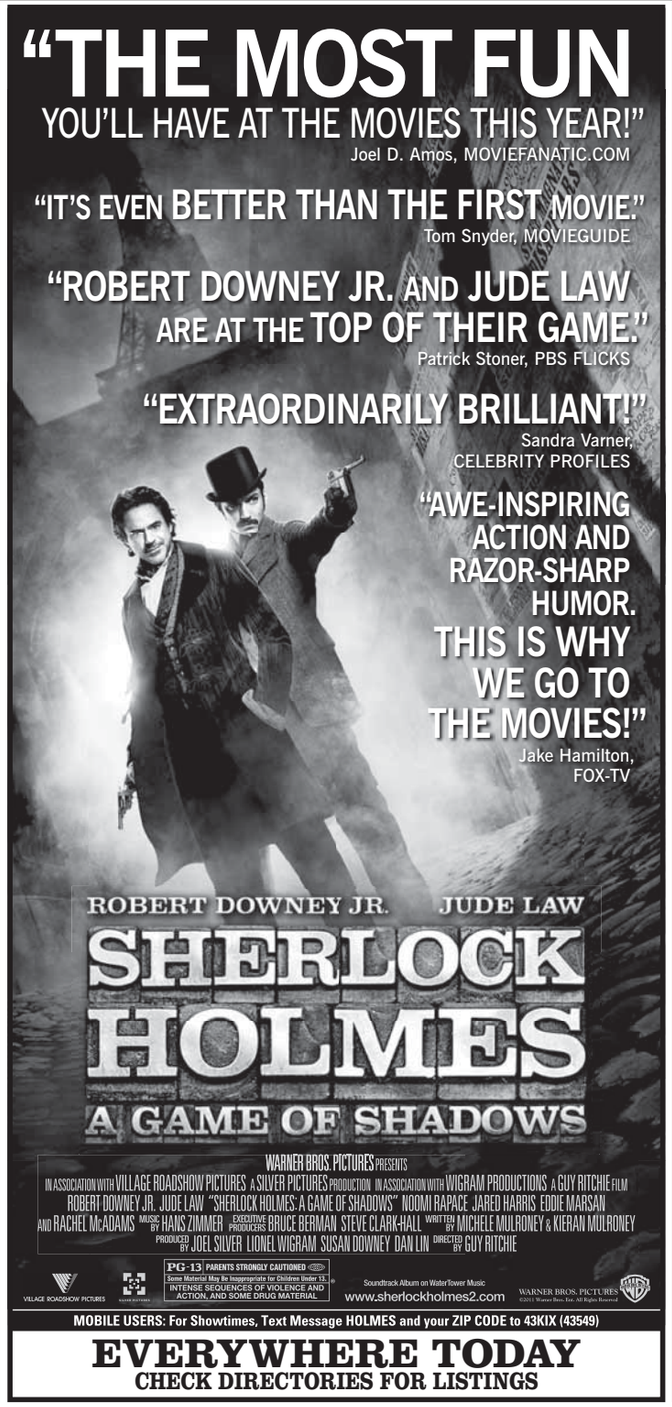
entertainment lookout

Now Playing

THE DESCENDANTS (R, 115 minutes) George Clooney doesn't put a foot wrong except on purpose in "The Descendants," a pitch-perfect movie that threads a tiny needle between comedy and devastating drama. Clooney's Matt King is the wealthy descendant of Hawaiian royalty, who, as the movie opens, is watching his wife, Elizabeth, lie comatose in a hospital bed after suffering a near-fatal boating accident. A distant husband and father, Matt must find a way to bond with his daughters, 10-year-old Scottie (Amara Miller) and 17-year-old Alex (Shailene Woodley). "The Descendants" is an ode to emotional dissonance, wherein regret and antic humor can coexist and even share a drink; it's a tricky tonal high-wire act that writer-director Alexander Payne pulls off with uncommon skill and aplomb. A.H.

HAPPY FEET TWO (PG, 100 minutes) In "Happy Feet Two," there's precious little of what gave "Happy Feet" its incongruous, yet infectious charm: a tap-dancing penguin. The gotta-move protagonist of the first animated, Antarctica-set feature — a misfit young emperor penguin named Mumble (Elijah Wood) — returns for the sequel. But this time he's all grown up — and a lot less fun. In his place are a lot of other polar creatures vying for screen time and our attention. The biggest letdown is the absence of dancing.

Continued on page 26



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FRI 16	FRIDAY NIGHT FRIGHTS: 2 EPISODES OF TALES FROM THE CRYPT & DRINK SPECIALS EVERY FRIDAY! FREE
FRI 16	GAY BASH! W/ DJ JOSHUA $5
SAT 17	JC BROOKS & THE UPTOWN SOUND EXIT CLOV $12
SAT 17	HELLMOUTH HAPPY HOUR 1 EPISODE OF BUFFY & DRINK SPECIALS
SAT 17	RIGHT ROUND: DJ LIL'E $7
SUN 18	CLOSED FOR REPAIRS
MON 19	CLOSED FOR REPAIRS
TUE 20	ATLAS SOUND CARNIVORES FRANK BROYLES $15
WED 21	COUCH NIGHT IN THE RED ROOM
THU 22	COBRA COLLECTIVE EDGEWOOD $8
FRI 23	A VERY MERRY FED RESERVE CHRISTMAS! JESSE ELLIOTT (THESE UNITED STATES), REVIVAL (SOLO), JOHN BUSTINE, BRANDON BUTLER & MORE! $10
FRI 23	ON & ON: DJS AUTOROCK & DANNY HARRIS $5
SAT 24	BACKDOOR DJS MOTHERSHIESTER & BENT $FREE
SUN 25	3RD ANNUAL JAMES BROWN DEATH-MAS HOLIDAY BASH W/ SOUL CALL PAUL $5
MON 26	SUPREME COMMANDER MUSICBAND DEATH BY SEXY $8

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NowPlaying

Continued from page 25

Mumble, the former hoofer, is now the father of a penguin chick named Erik (Ava Acres). He spends most of his time putting his foot down after Erik, who doesn't like to dance, runs away from home, and Mumble is forced to go get him and bring him back, scolding him the entire way. So much for happy feet. M.O.

HUGO (PG, 125 minutes) When Martin Scorsese announced that he would make his first 3-D movie — and a PG-rated family film, no less — several of his fans pronounced themselves flummoxed. But we didn't know that the movie would be "Hugo," an exuberant, if occasionally uneven, adaptation of Brian Selznick's movie-inspired illustrated novel. "Hugo" begins with one of the filmmaker's signature bravura tracking shots, this time through a cavernous train station in 1930s Paris. The camera is following the title character, a 12-year-old boy who lives secretly just below the station's ceiling. When he's not scrounging for food, he's gathering trinkets and tools to fix a lifelike metal automaton that represents his last link to a once-happy life. For the most part, it's a somber affair, its self-seriousness only deepening when Hugo runs afoul of a grumpy toy seller and his goddaughter, Isabelle. But during "Hugo's" final 20 minutes or so, the film truly comes to life. A.H.

THE MUPPETS (PG, 98 minutes) "The Muppets" is both a delightful family film about the Muppets and a winking, self-referential satire about how lame the Muppets are. How does it manage that trick? By starting with the premise that the Muppets are has-beens. What sets the plot in motion is a visit to Los Angeles by Gary, Mary and Walter (Gary's somewhat codependent brother). Walter is a Muppets groupie, and when he arrives in Hollywood, he can't quite accept the fact that his heroes are washed up. With the assistance of Gary and Mary, Walter sets out to reunite the Muppets for one last show, the proceeds from which will be used to save the decrepit Muppet Studios building from being torn down. So far, so corny. What saves "The Muppets" from itself is a sharp eye for just how silly all of this is. Directed by James Bobin and co-written by Segel and Nicholas Stoller, the film is mordant without being mean and sweet without being saccharine. M.O.

NEW YEAR'S EVE (PG-13, 118 minutes) "New Year's Eve" exists as a particularly soulless example of a movie that's less made than machined. A cobbled-together mash-up of actorly duets, this leaden effort sags when it should shimmer, labors clunkily when it should glide and — most unforgivably — plops some otherwise attractive and even talented actors into roles that are completely outside their physical and psychic comfort zone. Most insulting of all, the filmmakers insist on inserting bits of moralizing in the movie like so many razor blades in a candy apple. Clocking in at an unforgivable two hours, "New Year's Eve" perpetrates the same forced jollity, oversize proportions and crass superficiality as the very holiday it so wanly exploits. A.H.

SHAME (NC-17, 99 minutes) In Steve McQueen's mournful portrait of an addict hitting rock bottom, Michael Fassbender plays a man seeking self-annihilation through the compulsive pursuit of sex. As successful New Yorker Brandon, Fassbender spends a great deal of time staring moodily. Brandon may be able to make it anywhere, but even when he's with another person, he's alone. That changes with the sudden arrival of his little sister, Sissy (Carey Mulligan), whose hospital bracelet indicates that all is not entirely well with her either. Sissy upsets Brandon's metronomically choreographed rituals, which, it becomes clear, emanate from a wound deep in their shared past. "Shame" leaves motivations and backstories up to the viewer's imagination and focuses with unblinking

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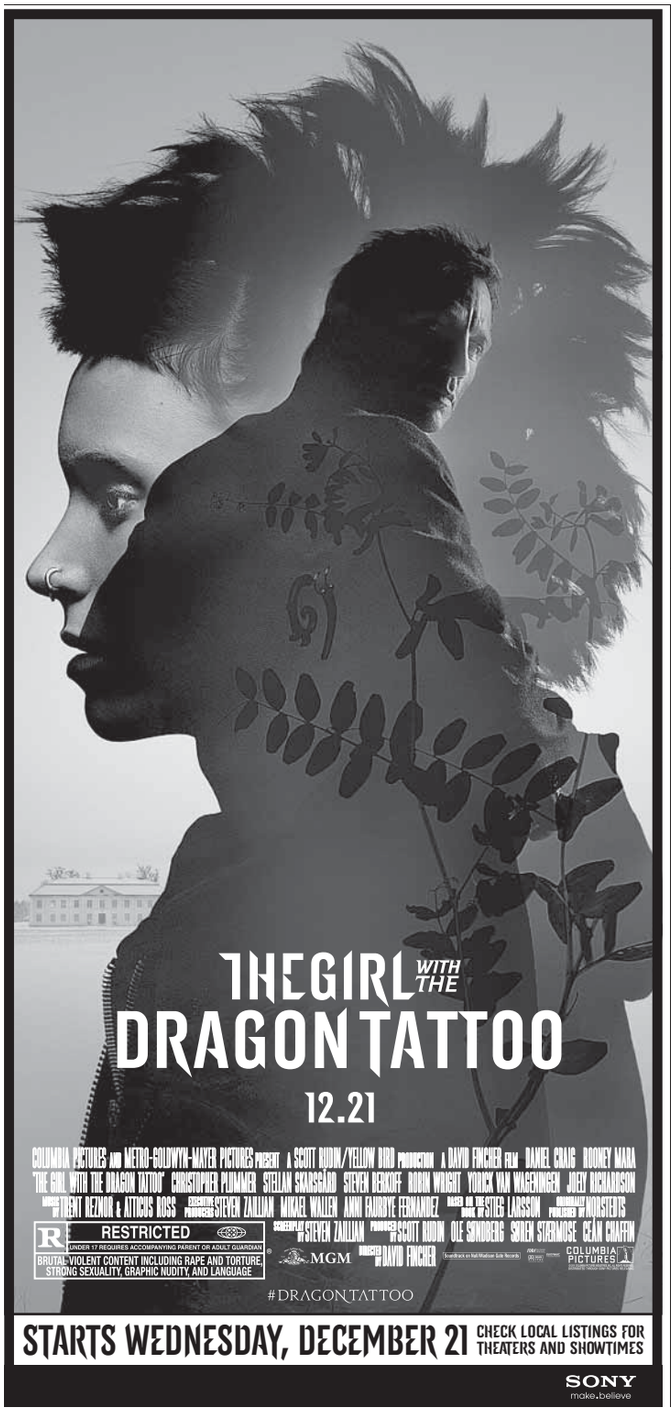
entertainment lookout

frankness on the depths of Brandon's most self-loathing behavior. A.H.

THE SITTER (R, 80 minutes) Spiked with some loopily inspired supporting performances and Jonah Hill's characteristically inspired improvisational asides, "The Sitter" is an efficient but uneven programmer, whose most valuable contribution to the cinematic landscape is its blessedly brief running time. The reason Hill's Noah finds himself baby-sitting a neighbor's three kids is that their regular sitter has a urinary tract infection. In the course of the ensuing night, he and Slater, Blithe and Rodrigo run amok through a Brooklyn bat mitzvah, an upscale restaurant, a street-tough pool hall and a retail outlet called Neal's Diamonds. The biggest kid, of course, is Noah himself, another man-child abroad in a world that can't see the exquisite gifts behind the girth. A.H.

THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 1 (PG-13, 117 minutes) Recent high school graduate Bella Swan grows up a lot in "Breaking Dawn - Part 1," becoming a bride, a potential mother and perhaps something stranger. Yet the "Twilight Saga" hasn't matured along with its heroine. In fact, the latest movie regresses a bit, delivering more filler, less feeling and crummier CGI than last year's "Eclipse." As the trailer (and the book) have already revealed, the drama this time is principally obstetric. In the movie's bland first half, Bella (Kristen Stewart) prepares for woodland nuptials with pasty vampire dreamboat Edward (Robert Pattinson). We do see a bloody Edward-ian flashback and an angry run through the Washington-state forest by wolfman Jacob (Taylor Lautner), the excluded member of the tale's menagerie a trois. But much of the action involves shoes, dresses and tearful, happy-sad chats with Mom and Dad. MARK JENKINS

> REVIEWS BY THE WASHINGTON POST'S ANN HORNADAY AND MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN. FOR FULL REVIEWS OF THESE AND OTHER FILMS, SEE GOINGOUTGUIDE.COM/MOVIES



RELIGIOUS Services Directory

EVENTS

Great Joy... A Gospel Christmas

The Alfred Street Baptist Church Music, Drama and Liturgical Dance Ministries present "Great Joy…A Gospel Christmas" on **Saturday and Sunday, December 17 & 18, 2011 at 6 pm at T. C. Williams High School, 3330 King St., Alex., VA 22302**. Special guest artist, Joseph Joubert, pianist and composer. Free admission and free parking available. For additional information, contact us at 703-683-2222 or visit our website at **www.alfredstreet.org**.

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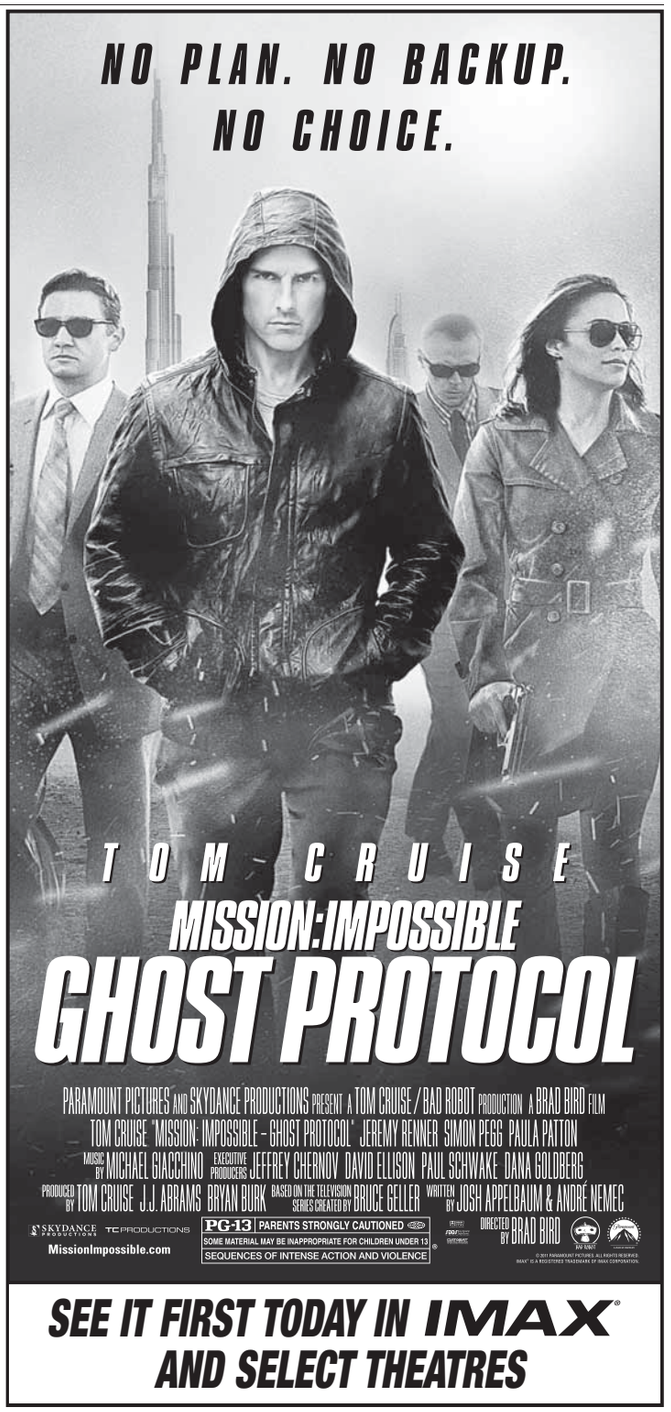

lookout entertainment

top stops

1 Movie House Christmas

It's a Christmas miracle! All you have to do to get four free movie tickets to future shows at the Arlington Cinema 'N' Drafthouse is show up to Friday night's screening of "It's a Wonderful Life" dressed as Santa, Mrs. Claus, a reindeer or one of the characters from the movie. Or even just wear an ugly Christmas sweater! The event benefits Children's National Medical Center and includes a wine tasting and jazz music before the movie. ***Arlington Cinema 'N' Drafthouse, 2903 Columbia Pike, Arlington; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m., $10; 703-486-2345, Arlingtondrafthouse.com.***

2 The French Selection

For those who like their holiday markets free of that Etsy rabble, there's Le Marché de Noël, a French gastronomy-themed gift bazaar that sets a live piano concert by Christian Dallas Blakely alongside chef demos, a brunch buffet, wine tasting and a silent auction. ***The Washington Club, 15 Dupont Circle; Sun., 1 p.m., $50; Theartsoiree.com. (Dupont Circle)***

SUSAN BIDDLE/TWP

3 Ho, Ho Holy Crap, It's a Santa Mob

Santarchy was ahead of the trend — the group has been occupying Christmas for years. This gathering of anyone who owns a Santa suit and likes to drink isn't protesting anything. They're just out to have a good time and spread Christmas cheer. Usually, they congregate at the Washington Monument, but since it's closed, there will be a new location this year, TBA. If you show up in just a Santa hat, you're getting coal in your stocking. You have to commit to Christmas. ***Check Twitter for location; Sat., 1 p.m., free; Twitter.com/Santarchydc.***

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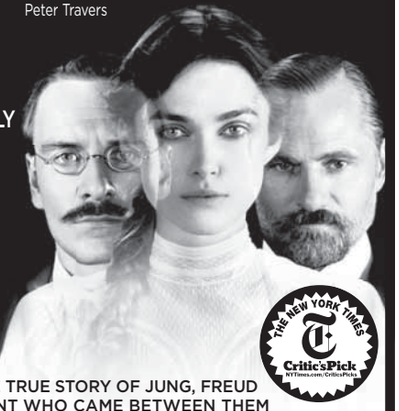
Rolling Stone
"AN EROTIC MINDBENDER! AN EXHILARATING PROVOCATION! THE ACTORS GIVE IT THEIR ALL, ESPECIALLY KEIRA KNIGHTLEY. MICHAEL FASSBENDER IS OUTSTANDINGLY GOOD. A PURRING, STELLAR VIGGO MORTENSEN HAS A HIGH OLD TIME PLAYING A MAN WHO LIKES TO HAVE THE LAST WORD. LEAVE IT TO DAVID CRONENBERG TO MAKE THE CEREBRAL SIZZLE!"
Peter Travers

The New York Times
"AN INTELLECTUALLY VIGOROUS, OCCASIONALLY KINKY TERM PAPER ON THE RIDDLE OF SEXUAL DESIRE AND THE DANGERS OF SCIENTIFIC AMBITION."
A.O. Scott



THE NEW YORK TIMES Critic's Pick NYTimes.com/CriticsPicks

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TV weekend lookout

Best Bets

SAT 11:29

Saturday Night Live (NBC) He hosts his own show, "Late Night With Jimmy Fallon," but he's never hosted the late-night show that he appeared on from 1998 to 2004 — but that's about to change. Fallon, shown, is thrilled that his "SNL" hosting debut is on the Christmas episode. Michael Buble is the musical guest.

SUN 9:00

Dexter (SHO) Dexter (Michael C. Hall) and the homicide team race to catch the Doomsday Killers before they commit their final (yet sure to be gruesome) act. Meanwhile, Deb (Jennifer Carpenter) struggles to cope with a new emotional reality that has left her badly shaken in the sixth season finale. (TRIBUNE MEDIA)

HBO

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF TIM

Struggle And Strife

FRI 9:00

HBO's "Tim" remains decidedly modest in its narrative ambitions, centering on a sad sack's strenuously modest (but often hilariously awkward) existence. Last season, Tim (Steve Dildarian) and his buddies Stu and Rodney lost their jobs at Omnicorp, which leaves the trio seeking employment in season three. (EXPRESS)

Local movie times

(!) No Pass/No Discount Ticket

DISTRICT

AMC Loews Georgetown 14
3111 K Street N.W. www.AMCTheatres.com

Hugo 3D (PG) : 3:20-6:20-9:20
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1 (PG-13) Digital Presentation: (!) 10:40-1:45-4:45-7:40-10:30
New Year's Eve (PG-13) CC-Closed Captions: (!) 12:40-3:30-6:40-9:30
The Sitter (R) Digital Presentation: (!) 10:35-12:45-3:00-5:30-8:00-10:15
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13) Digital Presentation: (!) 12:30-3:40-7:00-10:10
Moneyball (PG-13) Digital Presentation: 12:50-7:10
Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol: The IMAX Experience (PG-13) IMAX: (!) 12:55-4:10-7:30-10:50
The Descendants (R) AMC INDEPENDENT: (!) 10:30-1:10-4:00-6:50-9:50
My Week with Marilyn (R) AMC INDEPENDENT: (!) 10:50-1:30-4:20-7:05-9:35
J. Edgar (R) Digital Presentation: 3:50-10:20
Hugo (PG) Digital Presentation: 12:20
Young Adult (R) (!) 11:20-1:50-4:30-7:20-9:45
New Year's Eve (PG-13) Digital Presentation: (!) 11:00-2:00-4:50-7:50-10:40
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) (!) 11:30-2:10-4:40-7:15-9:40
New Year's Eve (PG-13) (!) 12:40-3:30-6:40-9:30
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13) (!) 11:15-2:15-5:15-8:15-11:10
The Muppets (PG) (!) 1:00-3:45-6:30-9:15

AMC Loews Uptown 1
3426 Connecticut Avenue N.W. www.AMCTheatres.com

J. Edgar (R) Digital Presentation: (!) 3:30-7:00-10:30

AMC Mazza Gallerie
5300 Wisconsin Ave. NW www.AMCTheatres.com

Hugo 3D (PG) : 1:10-7:20
New Year's Eve (PG-13) Club Cinema-Over 21 after 6:00 pm;Digital Presentation: 11:30-2:10-5:00-7:40-10:20
The Sitter (R) Club Cinema-Over 21 after 6:00 pm;Digital Presentation: 11:20-1:20-3:30-5:40-7:50-10:00
Hugo (PG) Digital Presentation: 10:20-4:10-10:10
Arthur Christmas (PG) Digital Presentation: 11:20-2:00-4:25-6:50
The Ides of March (R) 9:20
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13) Digital Presentation: (!) 10:30-1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) (!) 10:00-12:10-2:20-4:40-7:00-9:15
The Muppets (PG) (!) 11:00-1:40-4:20-7:10-9:50

Avalon
5612 Connecticut Avenue www.theavalon.org

Hugo (PG) 11:00-2:00-5:00-8:00
The Way (PG-13) 10:45-1:30-4:30-7:30

Landmark E Street Cinema
555 11th Street NW www.landmarktheatres.com

The Descendants (R) 2:10-4:40-7:10-9:40
Tomboy (NR) 1:10-3:20-5:30-7:40-9:50
Le Havre (NR) 12:25-2:35-7:15
Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy (R) (!) 12:30-2:00-3:30-5:00-6:30-8:00-9:30-11:00
A Dangerous Method (R) (!) 12:15-1:45-2:30-4:15-5:00-6:45-7:30-9:15-9:55-11:45
Shame (NC-17) 12:45-3:15-4:45-5:45-8:15-9:45-10:45
Santa's Cool Holiday Film Festival (NR) 12:00AM
Duck Soup (1933) (NR) 12:00AM

Regal Gallery Place Stadium 14
707 Seventh Street NW www.regalcinemas.com

Hugo 3D (PG) : (!) 12:35-6:55-9:45
Immortals 3D (R) : (!) 12:05-2:40-5:20-8:00-10:35
New Year's Eve (PG-13) CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service: 1:30
Young Adult (R) 12:00-2:30-5:00-7:40-10:10-12:30
J. Edgar (R) 1:00-4:05-7:05-10:15
Hugo (PG) 3:40-12:30
Happy Feet Two (PG) 1:05
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1 (PG-13) 12:25-3:20-6:50-9:40-12:25
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) (!) 11:40-12:10-1:50-2:20-4:00-4:40-6:10-7:00-8:30-9:10-10:40-11:30
New Year's Eve (PG-13) 3:30-4:30-6:30-7:20-9:30-10:30-12:15
The Sitter (R) 12:30-3:00-5:40-8:10-10:20-12:35
The Muppets (PG) 11:55-2:25-4:55-7:30-10:05-12:35
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13) (!) 11:50-12:40-1:40-2:50-3:50-4:50-6:20-7:10-7:50-9:20-10:00-10:40-12:10-12:45

West End Cinema
2301 M Street NW http://westendcinema.com/

King of Devil's Island (Kongen av Bastoy) (NR) English Subtitles: 2:00-4:30-7:20-9:50
Drive (R) 10:00
Margin Call (R) 3:00-5:20-7:40
Midnight in Paris (PG-13) 5:00-9:40
Melancholia (R) 2:00-7:00

MARYLAND

AFI Silver Theatre Cultural Center
8633 Colesville Road www.afi.com/silver

The Way (PG-13) Silver Babies Show: 11:00AM
Shame (NC-17) NO PASSES: (!) 1:25-3:30-5:35-7:40-9:45
Margin Call (R) Silver Babies Show: 11:05AM
My Week with Marilyn (R) 1:20-3:20-5:25-7:30-9:35
The Muppet Christmas Carol (G) 5:00
Bolshoi Ballet: The Nutcracker Encore (NR) NO PASSES: (!) 2:00
It's a Wonderful Life (1946) (G) 7:00
Election (1999) (R) 9:45

AMC Loews Center Park 8
4001 Powder Mill Rd. www.AMCTheatres.com

Happy Feet Two in 3D (PG) : 1:35-6:30
Arthur Christmas 3D (PG) : (!) 2:30-7:15
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) Digital Presentation: (!) 11:10-1:45-4:20-7:00-9:30
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1 (PG-13) Digital Presentation: 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:50
New Year's Eve (PG-13) Digital Presentation: (!) 11:20-2:00-5:00-7:40-10:20
The Sitter (R) Digital Presentation: (!) 10:45-1:00-3:30-5:40-8:00-10:05
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13) Digital Presentation: (!) 10:30-1:20-4:30-7:30-10:30
The Muppets (PG) Digital Presentation: 11:30-2:15-5:20-7:50-10:25
Arthur Christmas (PG) Digital Presentation: 11:45-4:50-9:40
Happy Feet Two (PG) Digital Presentation: 11:00-4:00-9:00

AMC Loews White Flint 5
11301 Rockville Pike www.AMCTheatres.com

Hugo 3D (PG) : 1:40-4:55-7:50-10:45
New Year's Eve (PG-13) Digital Presentation: 2:15-5:10-8:05-10:55
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13) Digital Presentation: 1:10-4:05-7:35-10:30
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) 2:00-4:40-7:00-9:50
The Muppets (PG) 1:25-4:20-7:15-10:10

AMC Magic Johnson Capital Center 12
800 Shoppers Way www.AMCTheatres.com

Happy Feet Two in 3D (PG) : (!) 1:10-6:30
Arthur Christmas 3D (PG) : 10:50-4:10-9:20
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) Digital Presentation: (!) 10:00-12:40-3:20-6:00-8:40-11:00
The Sitter (R) Digital Presentation: (!) 10:40-12:50-3:10-5:30-7:50-10:10-11:50
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13) Digital Presentation: (!) 10:15-1:30-4:45-8:00-11:15-12:00
Puss in Boots 3D (PG) : (!) 11:20-1:45-4:00
Immortals 3D (R) : 6:20-9:00-11:35
Arthur Christmas (PG) Digital Presentation: 1:25-6:40
Happy Feet Two (PG) Digital Presentation: (!) 10:30-3:50-9:10
Tower Heist (PG-13) 11:40-2:20-5:00-7:40-10:25
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) (!) 11:00-1:40-4:20-7:00-9:40
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1 (PG-13) (!) 11:10-1:50-4:40-7:30-10:20
New Year's Eve (PG-13) (!) 10:45-1:35-4:30-7:20-10:10
The Muppets (PG) (!) 10:20-1:20-4:05-6:50-9:35
Jack and Jill (PG) 11:50-2:15-4:45-7:10-9:30-11:45

Landmark Bethesda Row Cinema
7235 Woodmont Avenue www.landmarktheatres.com

Young Adult (R) (!) 12:55-3:10-5:25-7:45-9:55
The Descendants (R) 12:30-1:30-3:15-4:15-7:05-8:45-9:45
Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy (R) (!) 1:00-2:30-4:00-5:30-7:00-8:30-10:00
My Week with Marilyn (R) 2:20-4:45-7:30-9:50
A Dangerous Method (R) (!) 1:40-4:20-7:10-9:35
Shame (NC-17) 2:10-4:40-6:00-7:15-9:40

Regal Bethesda 10
7272 Wisconsin Avenue www.regalcinemas.com

Hugo 3D (PG) : (!) 1:40-7:20-10:10
J. Edgar (R) 1:00-3:50-6:50-10:00
Hugo (PG) 4:30
Arthur Christmas (PG) 1:25-4:00-6:30-9:10
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) (!) 2:00-2:50-4:20-5:10-6:40-7:30-9:00-9:45
New Year's Eve (PG-13) 2:20-5:00-7:40-10:20
The Sitter (R) 1:15-3:20-5:20-7:50-9:55
The Muppets (PG) 1:30-4:10-6:45-9:20
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13) (!) 1:45-3:30-4:40-7:00-7:45-9:50-10:30

Regal Hyattsville Royale Stadium 14
6505 America Blvd.

Immortals 3D (R) : (!) 10:00
New Year's Eve (PG-13) CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service: 1:05-4:05-7:05-9:55
Tower Heist (PG-13) 12:10-2:40-5:15-8:00-10:40
Young Adult (R) 12:05-2:30-4:55-7:20-9:50
Hugo (PG) 7:25-10:25
Happy Feet Two (PG) 12:00-2:25-4:50
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1 (PG-13) 1:30-4:30-7:40-10:30
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) (!) 12:00-12:30-1:00-2:10-2:40-3:10-4:20-4:50-5:20-6:30-7:00-7:30-9:10-9:40
New Year's Eve (PG-13) 1:35-4:40-7:35-10:25
The Sitter (R) 12:50-3:00-5:10-7:50-10:20
The Muppets (PG) 12:05-2:35-5:05-7:35-10:05
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13) (!) 12:15-12:45-1:15-3:25-3:55-4:35-6:45-7:15-7:45-9:45-10:15-10:45

Regal Majestic 20 & IMAX
900 Ellsworth Drive

Arthur Christmas 3D (PG) : (!) 12:55-5:35-10:15
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service: (!) 2:45-4:55-7:05-9:10-11:20
Hugo 3D (PG) : (!) 2:25-7:55-10:40
Immortals 3D (R) : (!) 9:15-11:50
Tower Heist (PG-13) 9:45-12:25
Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol: The IMAX Experience (PG-13) IMAX: (!) 1:00-4:00-7:00-10:10-1:00
Puss in Boots (PG) 2:55
The Descendants (R) 1:55-4:50-7:35-10:25
Young Adult (R) 1:05-3:30-6:20-8:40-11:00
Hugo (PG) 5:10
Arthur Christmas (PG) 10:20-3:15-7:50-12:25
Happy Feet Two (PG) 1:45-4:10-6:50
Jack and Jill (PG) 8:50-11:15
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1 (PG-13) 2:00-4:40-7:30-10:05-12:45
New Year's Eve (PG-13) 1:10-2:40-3:50-5:20-6:25-8:15-9:00-10:45-11:40
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) (!) 11:30-1:15-1:35-2:10-3:20-3:45-4:25-5:30-6:00-6:35-7:40-8:10-10:20-12:25
The Sitter (R) 1:30-3:40-5:05-6:05-7:25-8:25-9:30-10:35-11:35-12:30
The Muppets (PG) 3:05-5:45-8:20-10:50
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13) (!) 12:50-1:25-2:30-3:25-3:55-4:15-5:15-6:10-6:45-7:10-8:00-8:55-9:35-9:55-10:45-11:45-12:25-12:50

VIRGINIA

AMC Courthouse Plaza 8
2150 Clarendon Blvd. www.AMCTheatres.com

Arthur Christmas 3D (PG) : 1:50-6:50
Hugo 3D (PG) : 3:40-6:40-9:30
The Muppets (PG) Digital Presentation: (!) 2:00-4:40-7:20-9:50
Arthur Christmas (PG) Digital Presentation: 4:10-9:20
The Greatest Miracle 3D (El gran milagro 3D) (PG) : (!) 3:30-7:35
Tower Heist (PG-13) (!) 2:30-7:30
The Ides of March (R) (!) 12:00-5:00-10:00
J. Edgar (R) 1:00-4:00-7:00
The Greatest Miracle 3D (El gran milagro 3D) (PG) ;Spanish language: (!) 1:30-5:30-9:35
Immortals (R) 9:55
New Year's Eve (PG-13) (!) 1:40-4:30-7:10-9:45
Jack and Jill (PG) 2:10-4:20-6:30-9:10

AMC Hoffman Center 22
206 Swamp Fox Rd. www.AMCTheatres.com

Happy Feet Two in 3D (PG) : 9:30-2:40-8:00
Arthur Christmas 3D (PG) : 1:15-6:25-11:40
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) Digital Presentation: (!) 11:10-1:40-4:10-6:45-9:15-11:45
Immortals (R) Digital Presentation: 12:55-6:20-11:50
Hugo 3D (PG) : 9:35-12:40-3:40-6:40-9:40
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1 (PG-13) Digital Presentation: 10:30-1:25-4:35-7:25-10:30
New Year's Eve (PG-13) Digital Presentation: 10:35-1:30-4:25-7:20-10:15
The Sitter (R) Digital Presentation: 10:10-11:25-12:30-1:45-2:50-4:05-5:20-6:30-7:40-8:50-10:00-11:10-12:20
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13) CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video: (!) 11:50-3:00-6:10-9:20-12:25
Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol: The IMAX Experience (PG-13) IMAX: (!) 9:45-1:00-4:15-7:30-10:45
A Very Harold & Kumar 3D Christmas (R) : 8:20-10:40
The Descendants (R) AMC INDEPENDENT: 11:15-2:05-4:55-7:45-10:35
Puss in Boots 3D (PG) : 10:45-1:05-3:30-5:55
Immortals 3D (R) : 10:15-3:35-9:05
Arthur Christmas (PG) Digital Presentation: 10:20-3:50-9:00
Happy Feet Two (PG) Digital Presentation: 12:00-5:15-10:40
Tower Heist (PG-13) 10:25-1:20-4:10-6:55-9:35-12:10
Young Adult (R) (!) 11:30-2:00-4:30-7:00-9:30-12:00
J. Edgar (R) 1:30-7:15
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13) Digital Presentation: (!) 9:40-12:50-4:00-7:10-10:20
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) (!) 9:55-12:25-2:55-5:25-7:55-10:25
New Year's Eve (PG-13) 11:45-2:45-5:40-8:40-11:35
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13) (!) 10:40-1:50-5:00-8:10-11:20
The Muppets (PG) 10:50-12:20-1:35-3:05-4:20-5:45-7:05-8:30-9:50-11:15-12:30
Jack and Jill (PG) 11:05-4:50-10:25

Alexandria Old Town Theater
815 1/2 King St http://tickets.oldtowntheater.com/

The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1 (PG-13) 5:30-7:50-10:00
Hugo (PG) 5:20-8:00-10:00

Regal Ballston Common 12
671 N. Glebe Road www.regalcinemas.com

Young Adult (R) 12:30-3:00-5:30-8:00-10:35
Puss in Boots (PG) 2:00-4:20
The Descendants (R) 1:05-3:50-6:50-7:05-9:30-10:05
Happy Feet Two (PG) 9:20
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) (!) 1:50-2:10-2:50-4:00-4:30-5:10-6:30-7:00-7:30-8:50-9:50
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1 (PG-13) 1:30-4:15-6:55-9:55
The Sitter (R) 12:50-1:20-3:05-3:35-5:20-5:50-7:50-8:20-10:00-10:30
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13) (!) 12:40-1:10-1:40-3:40-4:10-4:40-6:40-7:10-7:40-9:40-10:10-10:40

Regal Kingstowne 16
5910 Kingstowne Towne Center

Arthur Christmas 3D (PG) : (!) 4:50
Immortals 3D (R) : (!) 3:50-8:50
Hugo 3D (PG) : (!) 12:35-6:30
New Year's Eve (PG-13) OC-Open Caption: 1:10
Tower Heist (PG-13) 1:05-6:25
Young Adult (R) 12:50-3:15-5:35-8:00-10:15
The Descendants (R) 1:25-4:05-7:00-9:50
J. Edgar (R) 9:05
Hugo (PG) 3:35
Arthur Christmas (PG) 12:00-2:25-7:15
Happy Feet Two (PG) 12:25
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1 (PG-13) 12:30-3:30-7:30-10:10
Jack and Jill (PG) 9:40
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) (!) 12:00-12:45-1:30-2:10-2:55-3:40-4:25-5:10-6:00-6:40-7:25-8:10-9:35-10:20
New Year's Eve (PG-13) 2:50-4:10-6:15-7:10-9:10-10:00
The Muppets (PG) 12:05-2:40-5:15-7:50-10:25
The Sitter (R) 1:20-3:25-5:30-10:30
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13) (!) 12:15-1:00-1:45-3:10-3:55-4:40-6:05-6:50-7:40-9:00-9:45-10:30

Regal Potomac Yard 16
3575 Jefferson Davis Highway www.regalcinemas.com

Hugo 3D (PG) : (!) 12:55-6:55-9:50
New Year's Eve (PG-13) CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service: 1:35
Tower Heist (PG-13) 4:20-9:30-12:00
J. Edgar (R) 10:15
Hugo (PG) 3:50
Arthur Christmas (PG) 1:05-3:40-6:25-8:55
Happy Feet Two (PG) 1:25
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) (!) 1:00-1:40-2:40-3:20-4:10-5:00-5:40-6:35-7:20-8:05-9:00-9:45-11:10
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1 (PG-13) 2:00-4:55-7:40-10:30
Immortals (R) 1:50-6:50-12:00
New Year's Eve (PG-13) 3:55-4:25-6:45-7:25-9:35-10:10
The Sitter (R) 1:10-2:50-3:30-5:10-6:05-7:30-8:15-9:40-10:25-11:50
The Muppets (PG) 1:45-4:30-7:10-10:00
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13) (!) 12:50-1:30-2:20-3:00-4:00-4:40-5:20-6:15-7:00-7:45-8:25-9:20-10:05-10:40-11:30

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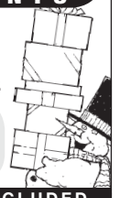

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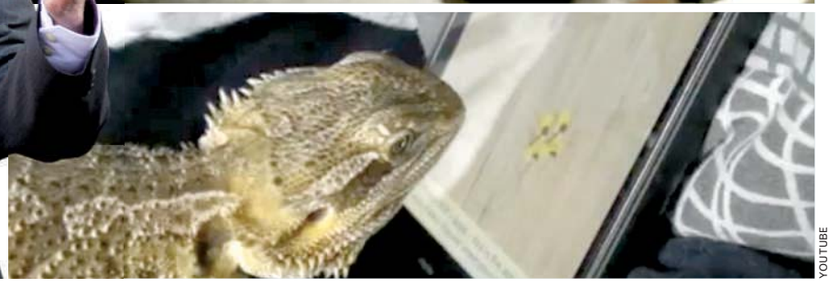

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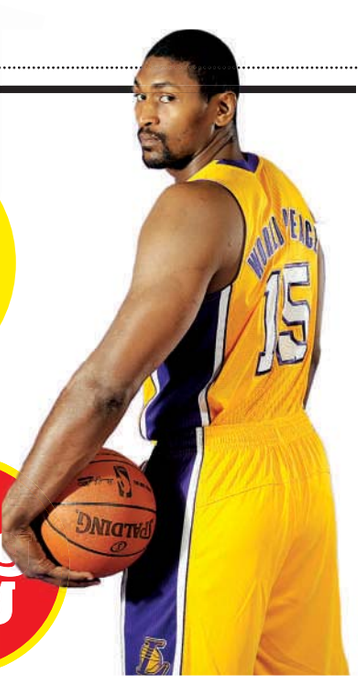

Blog Log

"If it's gotten to the point where Ann Curry is asking you if you're mentally capable of doing your job, you are indeed trying to climb the legal equivalent of Mount Everest."

—**SPORTSGRID.COM** reacts to the NBC journalist's interview Thursday with Joe Amendola, lawyer of Jerry Sandusky, a former Penn State football coach who is accused of molesting boys.

"I wouldn't think about how their environment might impact their ability or willingness to use that information. I mean, everyone has access to the Internet, right? Just turn it on and become a Google Scholar, and then Skype away to a better education. ... I mean, everyone has Wi-Fi, right?"

—**IDEAS.TIME.COM'S** Touré responds in a piece called "If I Were a Middle Class White Guy Writing About Being a Poor Black Kid" to an essay by Gene Marks at Forbes.com called "If I Were A Poor Black Kid," in which, among other things, Marks says that he'd use the Internet to get smarter.

"Once this bearded dragon and the baby seal join forces to sit on a couch AND play video games, they will be an unstoppable force of lethargy at near-human scales!"

—**GRIST.ORG** is amazed by two stories this week: one about a baby seal in New Zealand that was found sleeping on a couple's couch in their home and another YouTube video of a bearded dragon playing a video game on a smartphone with his tongue.

"I've talked a lot of crap about the Golden Globes in the past, how they're run by a shadowy cabal of foreign journalists who work for publications no one's heard of and have closed membership, and generally choose nominees based on who throws the best parties, but after this year, I may have to rescind my criticism."

—**FILMDRUNK.UPROXX.COM** was pleasantly surprised by the nominations for the awards show, which set to air on Jan. 15.

"Can't wait for game calls with 'Meta World Peace.' Lebron James is having problems with World Peace! 2nd and 3rd chances for world peace."

—**BASKETBALL ANALYST GREG ANTHONY** tweeted his excitement about seeing the Lakers' Metta World Peace, formerly Ron Artest, in action now that the NBA is returning.

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Puzzles

Horoscope

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You're going to want to give another a chance to shine without sacrificing your own; it's a balancing act.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You're facing a deadline of sorts, and there is much to be done before you can turn your attention to another project.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) The situation you find yourself in may not be all that good for you; what is the real reason you became involved?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You will want to answer certain questions directly and honestly — but a few may surprise you and prompt you to be less than truthful.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You're on track, and you must remain on track throughout all of the maneuvering that is ahead of you. Focus and dedication are key.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You may be running short of the kinds of resources that only you can provide for yourself. It's time to mount a more dedicated search.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You may develop symptoms that are not related to your environment or your immediate situation. Some detective work is called for.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) It'll be up to you to prepare others for what is coming, as only you understand both the factual events and what they may ultimately mean.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) A mystery is revealed out of what should have been a completely routine situation. Put yourself in another's shoes to solve it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) There are many steps to take before you can say you have completed an assigned task, and you must take them in precise order.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You're looking a bit too lightly on a situation that others are taking perhaps too seriously. A balanced perspective is what is needed.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You may feel as though there is no way out — but this is not true, and those around you can show you all your options.

PostPoints DAILY CODE U U

Scrabble Grams

PAR SCORE 160-170, BEST SCORE 247

								RACK 1
E1	U1	C3	J8	T1	B3	S1		
								RACK 2
E1	Q10	R1	T1	U1	W4	Y4		
								RACK 3
A1	O1	U1	L1	F4	F4	B3	Triple Word Score	
								RACK 4
A1	O1	M3	N1	S1	W4	N1	1st Letter Double	

Yesterday's Solution

Q10	U1	I1	E1	T1	E1	D2	RACK 1 =	101
P3	L1	A1	Y4	F4	U1	L1	RACK 2 =	66
S1	U1	P3	E1	R1	B3		RACK 3 =	10
L1	A1	X8	N1	E1	S1	S1	RACK 4 =	64
PAR SCORE 150-160							TOTAL	241

FOUR RACK TOTAL _____

Make a 2-7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get a 50-point bonus. Blank tiles used as any letter have no point value. Scrabble is a trademark of Hasbro in the U.S. and Canada.

Sudoku

DIFFICULT

							1	
	7	6		1		3		
	9		5					
			1	6				4
		8	9	7	4	2		
6				3	8			
					7		5	
		1		9		6	7	
	2							

Yesterday's Solution

4	3	6	9	5	7	1	2	8
2	8	5	1	4	3	9	7	6
9	7	1	8	2	6	5	3	4
8	1	9	3	6	5	2	4	7
5	6	7	4	9	2	3	8	1
3	2	4	7	8	1	6	9	5
7	4	3	6	1	9	8	5	2
6	5	8	2	3	4	7	1	9
1	9	2	5	7	8	4	6	3

Need more Su|do|ku? Find another puzzle in the Comics section of The Post every Sunday and in the Style section Monday through Saturday.

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Comics

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POOCH CAFE | PAUL GILLIGAN

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE | STEPHAN PASTIS

Forecast

50 | 37

Today: Breezy today with variable clouds. A passing shower this evening.

46 | 33

Tomorrow: Intervals of clouds and sun tomorrow. Partly cloudy tomorrow night.

Looking Ahead

SUN	MON	TUE
47 | 35	53 | 38	49 | 35

Sun and Moon
Sunrise today: 7:20 a.m.
Sunset today: 4:47 p.m.
Moonrise today: 11:14 p.m.
Moonset today: 11:08 a.m.

Almanac
Normal high: 47
Record high: 71
Normal low: 33
Record low: 6

FORECAST BY ACCUWEATHER.COM ©2009

Puzzles

Crossword

BEING COLORFUL

ACROSS

1 Vegetarian's no-no
5 Administers medicine
10 Black, in an ode
14 A good shoe supports it
15 Ringlike coral island
16 Pew locale
17 Colorful growing building
19 "True ___" (Wayne flick)
20 Six-Day War participant
21 Cardinals' nickname
23 "Pod" starter
24 Prevent from having
25 Infringe upon
30 Arrowed street sign
33 Digestive fluid
34 Suspend
36 Color quality
37 Redding, the singer
38 Birds of peace
39 Largest city of Latvia
40 Tony winner Cariou
41 Missing from one's post
42 Roman way
43 Exhibit principal
46 Climbs awkwardly
49 Scottish hillside
50 Anatomical egg holder
51 Madagascar language
55 Tooth covering
59 Mild expletive
60 Colorful Navy show squad
62 Gaming cubes
63 Actress Kedrova and singer McCann
64 State, in France
65 Prepares a printing press
66 Abrasive file
67 ___ serif (plain type style)

DOWN

1 "The Gift of the ___"
2 Boots an easy grounder
3 Computer brand
4 Movie houses, in Britain
5 Mexico's national flower
6 Siouan speaker of Oklahoma
7 Lip-puckering
8 Otherwise
9 Musher's team
10 Caboose's opposite
11 Colorful deep-voiced singer
12 "The Art of Love" poet
13 New Jersey team
18 Roman emperor
22 "Reindeer Games" star Affleck
25 Virus named for a river
26 Saltpeter
27 Colorful "Put Yourself in My Shoes" singer
28 Chuck wagon grub
29 Chaos
31 Boring tool
32 Insurance policy measurements
35 "Gimme a Break!" star Carter
38 Single and lacking baggage
39 Lung protectors
44 Muslim decrees
45 Droop in the middle
47 Comparable to pie?
48 "Blinded by the Light" singer Manfred
51 Prefix with "gap" or "care"
52 Once more, in Dogpatch
53 Fat, as a chance
54 Christmas season
56 "I ___ man with seven wives"
57 Dash of panache
58 WWII landing crafts
61 Corn measure

Yesterday's Solution

S	A	R	I	■	A	S	A	P	■	R	A	I	S	E
C	L	E	O	■	C	O	L	E	■	O	F	T	E	N
O	B	S	T	A	C	L	E	C	O	U	R	S	E	S
N	E	P	A	L	I	■	C	A	R	G	O	■	■	■
E	D	U	■	A	D	V	■	N	T	H	■	O	A	T
S	O	N	G	■	E	E	K	■	S	N	A	T	C	H
■	■	■	R	U	N	I	N	S	■	E	L	I	T	E
■	■	B	O	T	T	L	E	N	E	C	K	S	■	■
I	D	I	O	T	■	S	L	I	N	K	Y	■	■	■
N	U	T	M	E	G	■	L	P	S	■	D	E	M	O
N	E	E	■	R	I	A	■	S	E	T	■	D	A	D
■	■	■	E	A	R	T	O	■	M	I	S	U	S	E
S	T	U	M	B	L	I	N	G	B	L	O	C	K	S
A	W	F	U	L	■	M	E	A	L	■	L	E	E	S
G	O	O	S	E	■	E	S	S	E	■	E	D	D	A

BEING COLORFUL

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	8	9	■	10	11	12	13
14				■	15					■	16			
17				18						■	19			
20						■	21			22				
■	■	■	23			■	■	■	24				■	■
25	26	27				28	29	■	30				31	32
33				■	■	34		35		■	■	36		
37				■	38					■	39			
40			■	■	41				■	■	42			
43			44	45		■	46		47	48				
■	■	49				■	■	■	50			■	■	■
51	52					53	54	■	55			56	57	58
59				■	60			61						
62				■	63					■	64			
65				■	66					■	67			

EDITED BY TIMOTHY E. PARKER

Samurai Sudoku

DIFFICULT

Fill in each column, row and 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9 without repeating any. The twist in Samurai Sudoku is that the digits that appear in the overlapping boxes must work for both puzzles. A piece of advice to get you started: Don't focus on completing one grid at a time. Keep the whole puzzle in mind as you go, because filling in a number in one grid could give you clues to another.

4								3
	6	9					7	8
		8	4		7	5		
8			5	9	6			2
			3	2	8			
		5	9					
	8	3						5
7					3			9

4								1
6	5					2	3	
		9	3		8	4		
2			7	8	4			9
			2	3	6			
					2	6		
3						9	2	
5			6					4

			3			8	2	5
			8			1	9	7

								9
								5

2					8			1
	6	1						8
		9	4					
			7	8	3			
8			5	6	1			4
		2	1		5	8		
	3	8					5	9
9								2

7			4					3
9						4	5	
		8					7	6
			1	7	4			
4			9	8	2			1
		1	5		6	7		
5	4					9	1	
8								2

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Last Week's Solution

7	2	3	8	9	1	4	5	6
6	1	8	4	5	2	7	9	3
4	5	9	3	6	7	8	1	2
5	8	6	7	1	9	3	2	4
3	9	7	2	8	4	5	6	1
1	4	2	5	3	6	9	7	8
9	6	4	1	7	8	2	3	5
8	3	1	9	2	5	6	4	7
2	7	5	6	4	3	1	8	9

5	4	1	6	3	2	7	8	9
3	2	6	7	8	9	4	1	5
9	7	8	4	1	5	2	3	6
1	5	2	3	9	6	8	4	7
6	8	3	5	7	4	1	9	2
7	9	4	1	2	8	6	5	3
8	1	9	2	6	3	5	7	4
2	3	5	8	4	7	9	6	1
4	6	7	9	5	1	3	2	8

			7	2	3	5	1	6
			5	9	4	7	3	8
			8	1	6	2	9	4

9	4	8						
6	2	1						
7	5	3						

4	5	7	8	9	1	3	6	2
6	8	9	5	2	3	4	7	1
3	2	1	4	6	7	9	5	8
5	9	2	1	7	4	6	8	3
1	3	4	6	5	8	2	9	7
7	6	8	2	3	9	5	1	4
8	1	5	3	4	6	7	2	9
2	7	3	9	1	5	8	4	6
9	4	6	7	8	2	1	3	5

6	7	2	3	8	1	5	9	4
4	1	5	2	7	9	3	8	6
1	2	3	8	9	4	5	6	7
6	5	3	9	4	1	7	2	8
2	4	7	5	6	8	1	9	3
8	1	9	2	3	7	5	6	4
4	2	5	8	9	3	6	1	7
7	3	8	1	2	6	9	4	5
9	6	1	7	5	4	8	3	2

Today in History

1773 The Boston Tea Party takes place as American colonists board a British ship and dump more than 300 chests of tea into Boston Harbor to protest tea taxes.

1960 A United Airlines DC-8 and a TWA Super Constellation collide over New York City, killing 134 people.

2001 Cleveland Browns fans throw thousands of bottles onto the field after officials overturn a last-minute call, a decision that helps the Jacksonville Jaguars win the game 15-10.

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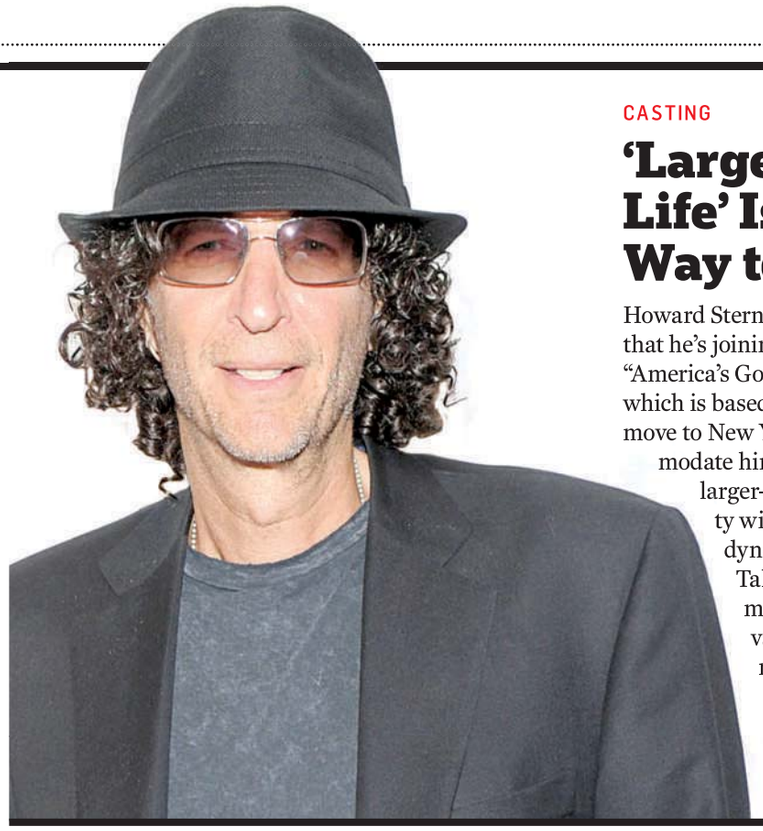
People

FUTILE

That's Not How Energy Works, It—Oh, Never Mind

Kim Kardashian bought three of Elizabeth Taylor's bracelets at auction for $64,900. Taylor "was an idol of mine, and I'm honored to now own something from her collection," she told Usmagazine.com. The bracelets "are special because jade transfers energy, so I will cherish these bracelets with her energy in them for the rest of my life!" (EXPRESS)



CASTING

'Larger Than Life' Is One Way to Say It

Howard Stern announced Thursday that he's joining the judges' panel on "America's Got Talent." The show, which is based in Los Angeles, will move to New York City to accommodate him. "Howard Stern's larger-than-life personality will bring a thrilling new dynamic to 'America's Got Talent' starting this summer. He's a proven innovator, and his track record in broadcasting is truly remarkable," an NBC exec said in a statement. (EXPRESS)

MOTIVES

'I Need One More Chance To Make You Cry on the Air'

Barbara Walters is not retiring, contrary to a remark she made Thursday. A source told TMZ.com that Walters, following an interview with President Obama, told him, "I need one more interview with you because I'm retiring next year." "Barbara has joked that she is retiring every year since the Clinton administration," a VP at ABC told TMZ later in the day. (EXPRESS)

DIMITRIOS KAMBOURIS/GETTY IMAGES

Look carefully and you'll see that she's turned her head around 360 degrees.

Victims

'Singed Chic' Is the Look She Was Going For

Courtney Love's New York City landlord says Love not only altered the appearance of her rented townhouse—which she was expressly forbidden from doing—but she let fire damage it, too, TMZ.com reports. The owner of the home wants to evict Love, who is $54,000 behind on her rent. (EXPRESS)

"I'm only scared of birds. Something about wings and beaks and the flapping. I'm terrified of them."

—**SCARLETT JOHANSSON**, STAR OF "WE BOUGHT A ZOO," TOLD NEW YORK MAGAZINE'S VULTURE BLOG THAT SHE'S FINE WITH ALL ANIMALS OTHER THAN BIRDS.

DIMITRIOS KAMBOURIS/GETTY IMAGES

"This is the 'off' button. It's broken."

SHIPPING

The Simon/Paula Fan-Fic Writers Knew It All Along

Simon Cowell told Barbara Walters on her "10 Most Fascinating People" special on Wednesday that he considered dating Paula Abdul, who once was "a million percent" set on a relationship with him. The two initially clashed so badly they "couldn't travel on the same plane together," which Cowell attributes to "sexual tension, on her part." The pair are now friends and appear together on the American version of "The X Factor." (EXPRESS)

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— Christopher Scott, Owner, PCRetro Inc.

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	REG.	SALE
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KING SET	$2799	$1299.99

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ROCKVILLE 1616B Rockville Pike (Opp. Congressional Plaza) 301-770-4325
BETHESDA 6950 Wisconsin Ave. (Next to Verizon Wireless) 301-656-2941 *Grand Opening*
ASPEN HILL 13601 Connecticut Ave. (Near Panera Bread) 301-598-2670
LEESBURG 1612 Village Market Blvd. (Village at Leesburg Nr Wegman's) 703-771-8404
STERLING 46301 Potomac Run Plaza (Near Target/Toys R Us) 703-430-5829
STERLING 21430 Cedar Drive (Opposite Koon's Ford) 703-421-7828
TYSONS CORNER 8387 Leesburg Pike (Next to Staples) 703-442-0608
TYSONS CORNER 8344 Leesburg Pike (2nd Floor, Opp. Koon's Chevy) 703-790-6018
TYSONS CORNER 116-120 Maple Ave. West (at Ctr St, Nr. McGruders) 703-255-0317
HERNDON 12950-C Highland Crossing (Woodland Pk Shop Ctr, Nr Harris Teeter) 703-435-1514
WOODBRIDGE 2467 Prince William Pkwy (Country Inn Suites, Nr Office Depot) 703-494-0123
WALDORF 3245 Plaza Way (Near Giants Food) 301-645-6580
OXON HILL 6209 Oxon Hill Rd. (Rivertown Commons, Nr. IRS Building) 301-567-0430
FREDERICKSBURG 1460 Central Park Blvd. (Nr Walmart/Talbots) 540-548-8323 ★
FREDERICKSBURG 29 Banks Ford Parkway (1/2 mile from Lowe's) 540-752-1076
FREDERICKSBURG 5629 Plank Road (Across from Walgreens) 540-548-2369 *Grand Opening*
CULPEPPER 717 Dominion Sq. Shopping Ctr. (Near TJ Maxx) 540-727-0217 *Grand Opening*
MASSAPONAX 10056 Southpoint Pkwy (Across from Super Walmart) 540-898-9456
MASSAPONAX 9811 Jefferson Davis Hwy. (In Super Target Shopping Ctr) 540-710-7950
ARLINGTON 5401 Lee Hwy (Opp the Lee Harrison Shopping Ctr) 703-237-0862
ALEXANDRIA 3925A Jefferson Davis Hwy. (Potomac Yards Center) 703-549-2970
ALEXANDRIA 4525 Duke St. (Near Harris Teeter) 703-823-2030
ALEXANDRIA 5812 Kingstowne Shop Ctr (Off Van Dorn-Nr Blockbuster) 703-924-7127
ALEXANDRIA 7704 D Richmond Hwy (Mt. Vernon Plaza, Nr. Wachovia) 703-768-1429
ALEXANDRIA 821 S. Washington St. (Near M & T Bank) 703-549-3193
SPRINGFIELD 6699 E. Frontier Dr. (Near Dunkin Donuts) 703-313-6103
LA PLATA 110 Rosewick Rd. (Lowe's Shop. Ctr., Near IHOP) 301-934-2892
FAIRFAX 11226 Waples Mill Rd (Cnr Rte 50, Opp. Social Security) 703-293-8917
FAIRFAX 12219 Fair Lakes Promenade Dr. (In Fair Oaks Shopping Center) 703-278-9152
MANASSAS 8039 Sudley Road (Westgate Plaza) 703-366-2834
MANASSAS 9950 Sowder Village Sq. (Nr Target) 703-361-1713
GAINESVILLE 7944 Crescent Park Dr. (The Marketplace at Madison Crescent) 703-754-4405
WINCHESTER 1980 South Pleasant Valley Road (Next to Martin's) 540-722-2969
WINCHESTER 235 Market Center (Betwn Lowe's & Target) 540-542-0435
BALTIMORE (Fullerton) 7911 Belair Road (Next to Geico) 410-882-0983
BALTIMORE 5860 Baltimore Natl' Pike (Highway 40, Next to Lowe's) 410-744-3405
ANNAPOLIS 2645A Housley Rd. (Gateway Village Shop. Center) 410-224-3048
ANNAPOLIS 65 Jennifer Road (Opposite Westfield Mall) 410-897-4964
FORESTVILLE 2950 Donnell Dr. (Near Shoppers) 301-568-0575
EDGEWATER 60 West Central Ave. (Edgewater Center) 410-956-2708
FREDERICK 5010 Buckeystown Rd. (Westview Plaza) 301-228-2785
FREDERICK 1170 West Patrick St. (Nr. Frederick Towne Mall) 301-696-1548
HAGERSTOWN 17243 Cole Rd. (Nr. Target & The Valley Mall) 301-582-0916
HAMPSTEAD 2315 Hanover Pike (Hampstead Mktpl., Behind CVS) 410-374-8665
WESTMINSTER 200 Clifton Blvd. (Westminster Crossings East Ctr) 410-871-2638
BEL AIR 615 Baltimore Pike (Tollgate Mktpl., Next to Friday's) 410-638-9252
COCKEYSVILLE 9924 York Rd. (Opposite Target) 410-667-1838
TOWSON/PARKVILLE 2003 E. Joppa Rd. (Opp No. Plaza Shop. Center) 410-882-2841
MARTINSBURG 14378 Apple Harvest Dr. (The Commons) 304-267-7755
OWINGS MILLS 9616 Reisterstown Rd. (Valley Ctr, Behind Friday's) 410-363-3596
ELLICOTT CITY 4350-G Montgomery Rd. (Long Gate Shopping Ctr) 410-465-1689
TIMONIUM 2066 York Rd. (just S. of West Timonium Rd.) 410-252-6807
FRONT ROYAL 135 Crooked Run Plaza (Next to Staples) 540-622-6269
PIKESVILLE 1500 Reistertown Rd.(Next to Goldberg's NY Bagels) 410-484-4057
NORTH EAST 2540 W. Pulaski Hwy (North East Stn, Nxt to Food Lion) 410-287-3710 ★
LAUREL 14190B Baltimore Ave. (Laurel Lakes Centre, Next to Best Buy) 240-568-6190
COLUMBIA 6131 Columbia Crossing Dr. (Dobbin Rd. & Rt 175) 410-312-4724
GLEN BURNIE 6918 Ritchie Hwy. (Opp. Wilkins Buick) 410-768-2161
PASADENA 8221 Ritchie Highway (1/4 Mi South of BJ's) 410-647-8036
HANOVER 7645 Arundel Mills Blvd. (Next to Safeway) 410-799-2190
CROFTON 1665 Crofton Center (Near Shoppers Food Market) 410-721-2427 ★
BOWIE 15758 Annapolis Rd (Free State Shop. Ctr, Nr Office Depot) 301-464-8908
SHREWSBURY 472 Shrewsbury Commons Ave. (Nxt to McDonald's) 717-235-1437
CHAMBERSBURG 935 Norland Ave. (Off I-81 & Walker Rd.) 717-261-2567
EASTON 28598 Marlboro Ave (In Target Shopping Center) 410-770-4910
FENWICK ISLAND 901-B Coastal Hwy (Nr Mancini's Brick Oven Pizza) 302-539-6032
REHOBOTH BEACH 2 Lighthouse Plaza (Next to Ruby Tuesday) 302-226-3052
SEAFORD 22876 Sussex Highway (In Front of Lowe's) 302-629-9137
SALISBURY 2618 North Salisbury Blvd. (Next to Lowe's) 410-334-3045
DELMAR 38661 Sussex Hwy. (Delmar Commons, nr Happy Harry's) 302-846-3718
OCEAN CITY 12641-98 Ocean Gateway (White Marlin Mall) 410-213-0515
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